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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

October 1991

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Dominic D. DiFrancesco
P. 41

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 131, No. 4

October 1991

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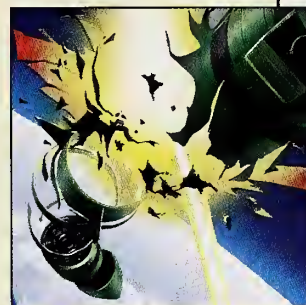
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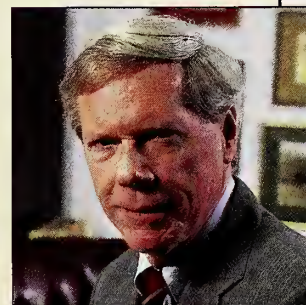
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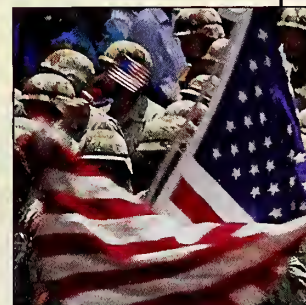
THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 3 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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OFFER EXPIRES MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 22, 1991 C9664 AL

New Word

All through our lives we seek identities. Identities tell us who we are. One word has great power. Others judge us and identify us through simple words. However, there isn't an identity word for a non-drug user. I propose the word *dren* be used to identify non-drug users.

I am only one voice who, out of love and respect for the youth of our nation, appeals to our nation to bind together to make our dream of a drug-free society a reality. An identity word such as *dren* can be a very powerful weapon in the war against drug use. Simply having a positive identity for the first time may be all some of today's youths need. Now, kids only know of the word *dren* in the small city of Smyrna, Ga. They learned it through word of mouth. The kids here are coming up with such slogans as "it's in to be a dren" and "win with dren." They seem to find they can say no to drugs without having to be made fun of. It's easier to refuse drugs by simply saying, "I don't do drugs, I'm a dren."

I'm a dren. *Dren* should be a household word.

Woody Manuel
Smyrna, Ga.

Peace Prized

The thrill of victory is sweet, but the end result is increasingly questionable. (See Sound Off for voting results, page 72.) Peace will only be possible when we stop playing world policeman and join hands with other great powers to truly support a United Nation's peace-keeping force of invincible strength and purpose. It is about time all nations think about world peace.

▼ Tom Kaiser
Boynton Beach, Fla.

Right Rights

The ACLU's executive director Ira Glasser (July, Vetvoice) is well aware that his group does not remain true to the Bill of Rights. The ACLU disregards the need to secure the rights our founding fathers enumerated. Traditional American values in the Bill of Rights include the right to self-defense and to

protect one's property and family. Without the efficient and effective means to do so, freedom from abuse by street criminals or bad government is only a dream.

The drafters of the Bill of Rights took great pains to enumerate basic rights that this new government would not be allowed to interfere with. Unfortunately, their wisdom didn't foresee the day of selective enforcement by 20th century extremists who hide behind one amendment to dilute or destroy another.

Michael D. Yacino
East Douglas, Mass.

Orangewash

After reading the article "The Agent Orange Whitewash" (July), I must write about my own experience with Agent Orange. I spent two years in Vietnam. I served in the 1st Cavalry and in the 101st Airborne Division. When I tried to retire from the Army in 1981 with 20 years, I had a blood problem. I spent a month at Fort Ord Hospital. Bone marrow and liver biopsy tests could not tell the doctors anything. I continuously claimed my ailments to be caused by Agent Orange, but my concerns were voiced to deaf ears. After a year of

being attached to the hospital, reporting in once a week and being filled with medication, I gained 50 pounds. I requested to be retired, and the doctors believed after a year of treatment, I should be seen at the Agent Orange Clinic at the VA hospital in San Francisco.

In August 1983, my spleen was removed at the VA hospital in San Francisco. They told me they found unknown chemicals in my spleen. So, how many more of us Vietnam combat veterans who spend two years in the world of I Corps around the DMZ area have had their spleens removed?

I can remember in May 1968 while on a sweep between Dong Ha and Charlie II, planes were dropping some kind of moisturized vapors over the bush around us. As we were filling our canteens with water from bomb craters, I asked the lieutenant, "What is that stuff falling from the air?" He said, "I don't know. I guess it is some kind of mosquito spray."

They were killing us and didn't know it, or did they?

Richard L. Hosking
Brisbane, Calif.

Blessed Song

I was a prisoner of war of the Japanese for three and a half years in World War II. When we were captured in Corregidor and went into Manila, they kicked us off the boats into about nine feet of water. The tall guys helped the short guys who couldn't make it. Somebody came up singing "God Bless America." To this day, I get all shook up when I hear that song. Every time we'd get in a real tight place, we would sing "God Bless America." The Japs didn't know what we were doing, but it sure did help.

▼ Frank Bigelow
Brooksville, Fla.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the song "God Bless America" and its impact upon Americans. I vividly remember hearing it for the first time when Kate Smith sang it over the radio. I was in my neighbor's living room in Brooklyn, N.Y. I was so proud of Irving Berlin and my country, and I was only 19 years old at the time. By coincidence, I just returned from England where I witnessed the changing of the guard at

VETVOICE

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*If you want your opinion heard, call 1-900-28-VOICE. Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds support Legion programs. This month, you can vote on the questions, **Do you believe the Strategic Defense Initiative should receive more funding?** see page 22, and **Should Japanese officials be invited to celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii?** see page 72.*

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Buckingham Palace. At the ceremony, the band played songs written by American composers. They ended their performance by playing "God Bless America." I was so proud to be an American at that moment.

*Norton Josephson
Daytona Beach, Fla.*

When I hear "God Bless America," I always get tears in my eyes. I visualize the rolling seas and the gorgeous towering mountains and the plains lush with bountiful crops. I thank God for allowing me to raise my seven children in this wonderful country. As I think of the enemies who are trying to destroy her from without and within, I pray my 15 grandchildren and future generations will see her strong and gorgeous under God.

■ *Charlotte Greathouse
Cambria, Calif.*

Terminator

I definitely believe congressional terms should be limited. (July, Sound Off) The President's terms are limited. The Congress should operate under the same rules. The lobbyists can't get a hold on someone when they know they are only going to be in office a few years. People should not be able to stay in office with the government subsidizing their re-election. With limited terms, congressmen would have to buckle down and do the job they were elected to do.

■ *Stanley Comstock
Sanbornville, N.H.*

General's Thanks

As I complete my term as Chief of Staff, I want to thank The American Legion for all that it has done over the years for the soldiers of America's Army.

As you undoubtedly appreciate, nothing is more important to those who serve in the military than the knowledge that their country is behind them. Thus, The American Legion's support for our troops—in peace as well as in war—has meant a great deal to our Army, and has done much to sustain

those who serve in it. Needless to say, I hope that in the years ahead the Legion will continue to support our soldiers in the same concerned and generous manner that it has in the past.

Again, on behalf of soldiers everywhere, thank you. With all best wishes from Washington.

*Carl E. Vuono
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff*

Polish Patriot

I was very pleased and proud to read the wonderful article about the great Polish statesman Ignace Paderewski. My parents came to the United States prior to World War I, and they met in Chicago in the early 1920s. Paderewski was well known to them and all Poles who came to this country.

However, the article contains one mistake. Paderewski's heart is no longer in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y. With great pomp and circumstance and with thousands of Polish Americans from all over the United States, with the consent of a living relative, Paderewski's heart was placed in the Lady of Czestockowa National Shrine in Doylestown, Pa., in June 1986.

*John W. Piekietko
Chicago*

Desert Mailbag

Hello! I would like to thank you all for your consideration and for sending THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE to us in Operation Desert Storm. My ship has been in the Gulf since November 1990, and believe me, it feels like a long time. The letters and support from the American people have been a boon to us. We might not always get a chance to write, but we thank you in our hearts.

*Lt.j.g. Melanie Kreekovsky
USNS Chauvenet (TAGS-29)
Operation Desert Storm*

My husband was one of the many retirees who were recalled to active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm. These retirees went to fulfill their duty, and in many cases, their lives were disrupted. This disruption is to be

expected, but once they returned, they should have been able to resume their normal lives.

Since his return, my husband has encountered numerous problems. Prior to his recall, he was attending nursing school. Now, he would like to return, but he cannot use a Pell Grant because he is receiving GI Bill of Rights benefits. Also, VA has told him he has to reapply for disability benefits that he received prior to his recall. In addition, his disability pay is still being taken out of his retirement pay, but he is not receiving that pay.

This is not fair to him or any other retiree who put in his time in support of Operation Desert Storm. What does he have to show for his additional service? A Bronze Star and a National Defense Medal. Medals don't make up for all the bills, don't help put groceries on the table, or gas in the car, and don't get him back into nursing school.

Please recognize these people and help them get their lives back in order. They deserve it, because they answered the call again.

*Alice E. Stokes
Plattsburgh, N.Y.*

No Amending

FBI Agent James T. Maher's (July, Vetvoice) attitude toward the Second Amendment is absurd. To "clarify" the Constitution by repeal and replacement with legislation aimed at banning private firearms ownership is exactly what the Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to prevent—casual, political modification and tampering. The American people have more to fear from Maher and his ilk than from the common street criminal.

*M. Jay Hatley
Barstow, Calif.*

I disagree with James Maher. I spent two years of my life in the Marines during World War II defending the rights of citizens and the Constitution. Now, everyday we are losing more of our freedoms. Changing the Second Amendment will only take the guns away from honest citizens.

*Melvin J. Smith
Ingomar, Pa.*

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Homosexual Policy

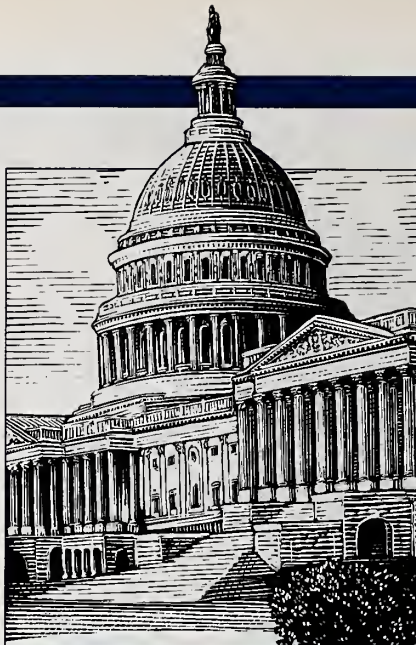
After the feminist push for women in combat, the Pentagon is coming under increasing pressure to repeal its policy banning homosexuals from the Armed Services. In an apparent change of position that caught national security hardliners by surprise, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney said in August the ban should not apply to civilian employees of the Defense Department. His comment came in the wake of a column by Jack Anderson identifying one of Cheney's aides, a top Pentagon civilian official, as an alleged homosexual.

Openly homosexual Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts declared "the momentum is clearly with us" on changing the policy. Cheney himself said, under questioning by Frank at a congressional hearing, that the policy against admitting homosexuals, because they undermine discipline and morale and are vulnerable to blackmail, was "inherited" and he didn't necessarily agree with all of it.

Arms Treaty

Former Reagan administration officials are in the forefront of opposition to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) signed July 31 by President Bush in Moscow before the recent coup attempt. The START agreement is supposed to reduce strategic weapons on both sides and may be brought up for Senate consideration in the fall. But Center for Security Policy director Frank Gaffney, deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration, intends to raise "hard questions" about the agreement, which he viewed was designed to bolster Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's tenuous hold on power. Sven Kraemer, who served as director of arms control policy in the Reagan administration's National Security Council, said START is fatally flawed. Kraemer is director of policy and research at the American Security Council Foundation, a leading pro-defense group that works closely with the 200-member congressional National Security Caucus. Among his concerns:

- The Soviets are permitted to modernize their heavy missiles, the first strike SS-18s.
- The Soviets are permitted 1,100 warheads on mobile missiles which, like Iraqi Scud missiles, can be easily hidden.



WASHINGTON WATCH

By Cliff Kincaid

- The Soviets can build an additional 100 long-range Backfire bombers, bringing their total to 400.

- The treaty contains a "poison pill" inserted by the Soviets, mandating continued U.S. compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, already broken by Moscow, which inhibits the testing and development of our own Strategic Defense Initiative.

Kramer said the treaty, if ratified, needs to have safeguards or amendments written into it by the Senate.

October Surprise

Responding to pressure generated by leftist groups such as the Fund for Constitutional Government and the Fund for New Priorities, the Democratic congressional leadership has launched a formal investigation of the "October Surprise" story. These are the allegations that the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1980 stole the November presidential election by delaying the release of the American embassy hostages from Iran, thus preventing President Jimmy Carter from claiming and receiving credit for their return.

Republicans, citing the absence of proof, charge that the inquiry is a waste of time and money because the alleged chief villain, former CIA director William Casey, is dead, and some wit-

nesses to the supposed deal are either dead or lack credibility. The Democrats, apparently concerned the investigation might turn out to be a bust, have decided to review the allegations privately before deciding to hold public hearings. Ted Turner's cable channel, Turner Network Television, will join the fray by airing a docudrama, *Iran: Days of Crisis*, on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Budget Disaster

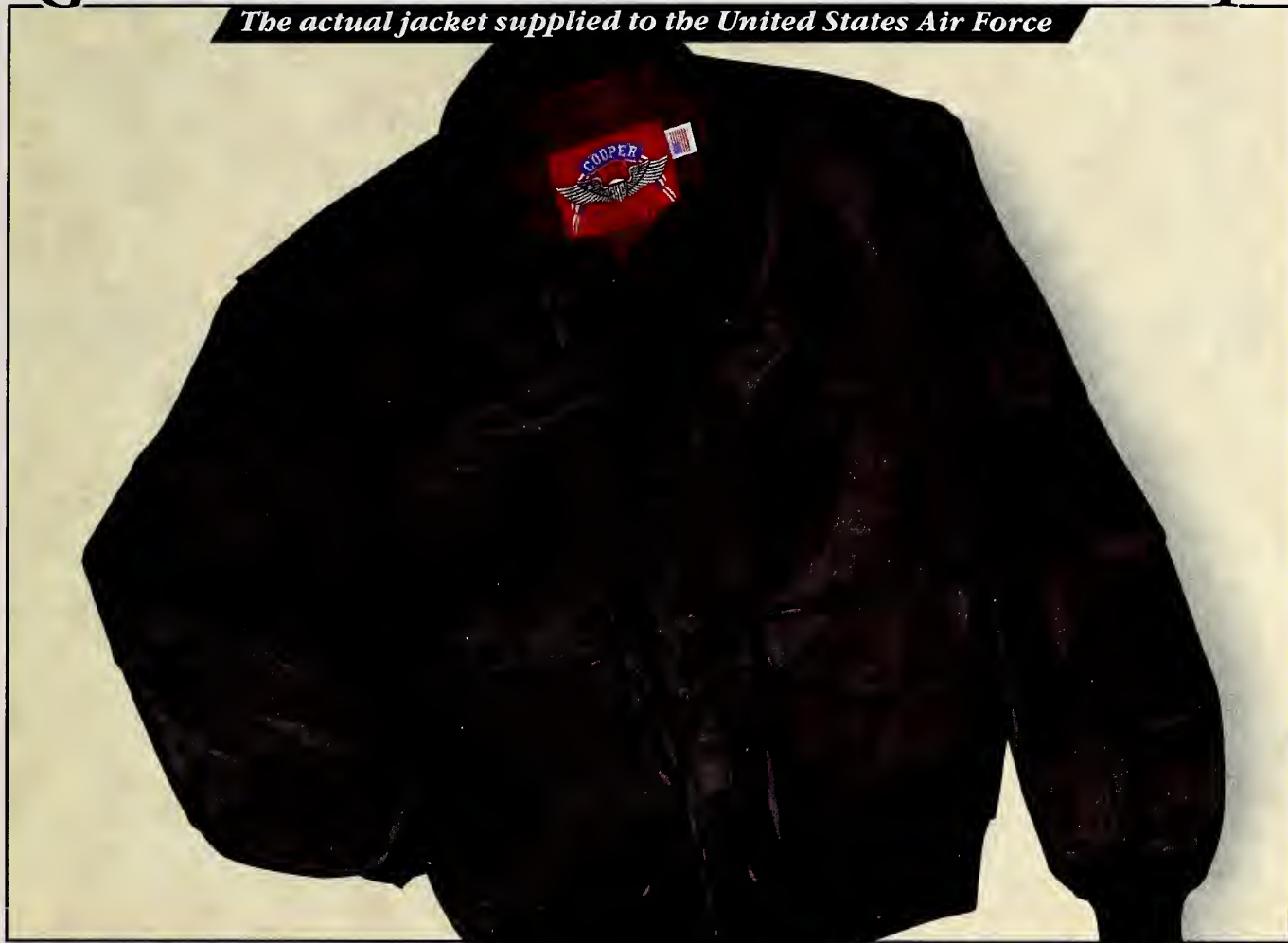
When the White House and Congress made a deal to raise taxes a year ago, they said it would cut the budget deficit, but the opposite has occurred. The fiscal year 1992 budget deficit is now estimated at \$348 billion. Columnist M. Stanton Evans terms it "one of the most shocking disasters in the history of U.S. economic policy," and called for the resignation of White House budget director Richard Darman, who brokered the deal. To help pay for the budget debacle, public service organizations such as The American Legion, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army and even churches and colleges may face millions of dollars in additional postage costs if a congressional conference committee after the August recess doesn't approve the usual lower rates for non-profit groups. Sens. Dennis DeConcini of Arizona and Pete Domenici of New Mexico have been fighting to continue the traditional policy of encouraging worthwhile educational, charitable, scientific and religious activities by giving non-profits a break.

Peace Conference

Influential pro-Israel groups are suspicious of the planned October Middle East peace conference, sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. Americans For a Safe Israel (AFSI) has harshly attacked President Bush for betraying Israel and trying to force the Jewish state into surrendering "its strategic and historic heartland for worthless promises from liars, terrorists and tyrants." AFSI president Herbert Zweibon said Israeli acceptance of the plan should not be misinterpreted, adding, "They've got a gun in their ribs and they're smiling." Administration officials defend the conference and the Soviet Union's role as co-sponsor by saying that it holds the promise of resolving the bitter Arab-Israeli dispute. □

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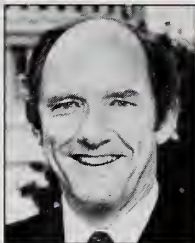
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SHOULD CONGRESS SUPPORT THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE?

Sen. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyoming

For years, Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) critics have been telling the American people that missile defense won't work; that it's unaffordable, or unnecessary. Now, after the stunning success of the Patriot in the Gulf War, critics are trying to convince Americans that the Patriot has nothing to do with SDI.

YES



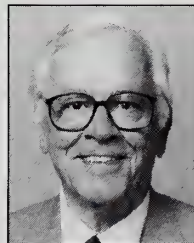
The SCUD is a tactical ballistic missile of 1960 vintage, slower, with a shorter range than an ICBM. But the Patriot is an old system, too, an upgrade of 1970's technology, with limited range, speed and accuracy. Though far from perfect, it shot down nearly all attacking SCUDs. Americans now know that ballistic missile defense is possible, and they see the human cost of vulnerability.

American engineers and scientists have achieved remarkable breakthroughs in SDI technology—computer software, sensors, new materials, miniaturized systems—a genuine technological revolution. But for SDI opponents, our troops and allies could have had a far better tactical missile defense than the Patriot. And America could be protected today by cost-effective defenses against ICBMs and nuclear warheads.

Only politics stands in the way of this protection, not technology or cost. For over two decades opponents of missile defense and their allies in Congress have insisted America remain defenseless against ballistic missiles. Only the threat of retaliation could deter a nuclear attack, they argued. And they succeeded in getting this questionable concept enacted into U.S. law and defense policy through the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which prohibits a nationwide ballistic missile defense. They even tried to kill the Patriot program several times. Clinging to this discredited orthodoxy, SDI critics have no solution to the spread of missile technology and weapons of mass destruction around the world. When the United States raided Tripoli in 1986, Libya's dictator Qaddafi vowed he would have fired a nuclear missile at New York if he had possessed one. Future aggressors may well be able to carry out similar threats.

Americans need to cut through the half-truths of professional naysayers and realize that meaningful missile defense is necessary, possible and affordable. Then they must hold our elected leaders accountable for providing it. ☐

Rep. Charles E. Bennett, D-Florida



NO

In 1972, President Richard Nixon negotiated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union, banning defensive systems larger than 100 ground-based interceptors. Nixon recognized the still valid premise that trying to erect a shield against nuclear attack would only provoke the other side to increase the number of attacking missiles and devise ways to counter any defense.

The Patriot has nothing to do with the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). It is funded and managed by the Army and shoots down tactical ballistic missiles. These large, relatively slow-flying, short-range missiles usually have conventional warheads.

They are used in the battlefield in distances from six to about 1,000 miles. We know we can shoot them down and if one gets through, the damage is minor. We hear that 20 countries will soon have missile technology, and most of these will have these short-range missiles. SDI has little to do with this threat.

SDI has spent almost all its time and money on intercontinental ballistic missiles. These span oceans, flying four to five miles per second, and one missile can have 10 nuclear warheads and dozens of decoys.

By 1986, SDI officials realized anew that we could not stop all the thousands of nuclear warheads the Soviets could launch.

They then worked on a plan to stop about 30 percent, but estimated the system would cost \$120 billion. President Bush has now abandoned that idea. A new plan is to try to stop one, two or a few dozen missiles.

This may be a more realistic mission, but SDI's \$5 billion annual budget request means many needed conventional defense programs have to be cut, including new air defense systems, experimental drones, advanced submarine technology, new chemical and biological defense research, and funds for new combatant ships.

We should improve the Army's Patriot missile and develop new defenses for our troops. Meanwhile, the Strategic Defense Initiative research should continue, but like all federal programs, it must be kept to a reasonable dollar figure, lest more urgent defense needs be slighted. ☐

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BAND STAND—Formed in 1929, the Post 264 Band is one of the oldest volunteer musical organizations in New York.

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DOWN UNDER

Post 264 Band of the Tonawandas will travel to the "land down under" to compete in the July 1992 International Music Festival.

THE conductor stands ready, musicians' instruments are poised, all eyes concentrate on the white baton. The stillness of the auditorium is almost deafening in anticipation. As one, the band quickly follows the movements of the director and another performance is under way.

An American Legion band, a veteran of hundreds of performances, will represent the United States at the July 1992 International Music Festival in Sydney, Australia.

The American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Post 264, from Tonawanda, N.Y., was notified in June of their acceptance in the National/Military Division.

The Tonawandas Band is no stranger to competing with the best. It has been New York State American Legion Senior Band champions almost continuously since 1947 and American

Legion Senior Band National Champion in 1972, 1973, 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1990. It has been the Canadian National Exhibition International Band Champion six times. They received the President's Trophy permanently for winning the Canadian competition three years in a row.

The band was organized shortly after the Post was formed in 1929 and is one of the oldest continuously active volunteer musical organizations in western New York. It was incorporated in 1932 in New York State and is currently a registered federal and New York State not-for-profit organization.

The band carries on the volunteer spirit of The American Legion. None of the musicians are compensated for their participation in the ensemble. A large number of the musicians are instrumental music educators, engineers, businessmen, professionals, government and industrial workers, truly representing a broad cross section of New Yorkers. Many of the former members

of the Tonawandas Band have become professional musicians in symphony orchestras, commercial recording studios and even military musical ensembles.

The band has a year-round commitment. Rehearsals are continuous throughout the year, with up to 40 performances annually.

The 90-member band is more than a parade marching unit. The full symphonic-sized American Legion Band of the Tonawandas presents a contemporary Boston Pops-style program, following the turn-of-the-century tradition of band concerts.

No music is too difficult for the band. Selections include rousing Broadway show tunes, heroic marches, crowd-pleasing classics and selections written to enhance the repertoire of concert bands internationally.

They were recently video taped by the Public Broadcasting Service Network for an upcoming special in which they will portray the John Philip Sousa band. Their music can also be heard on full-length recordings, "National Champions" and "Strike up the Band," both conducted by the late Herbert Ludwig.

During its appearance at the International Festival, the band will be featured with other highly talented military and community groups from the Soviet Union, Japan and many other countries. The festival gives the Tonawandas Post 264 Band the opportunity to show the colors of the United States and The American Legion.

The band will not be able to accomplish their goal without the help of others, though. The monumental task of transporting members and their equipment to Australia is expensive. The band must raise \$150,000 to cover travel and lodging expenses. The time is short to confirm all the travel arrangements. At least 75 percent of the goal needs to be pledged by next month to secure the band's entry in the Festival.

The Tonawandas Post 264 band is raising funds to present the Legion's colors at the forefront of the competition in Australia.

For more information write to: David Abrahamian, Band Manager, American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Post 264, P.O. Box 122, Tonawanda, NY 14150. □

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TEED OFF—Margaret Parda, representing the Northampton VAMC, bats her way to a silver medal in the age 63-79 pentathlon.

DEEP in the heart of Texas there are a lot of folks with a lot of heart. Just ask Legionnaire Bill Vaughan, a World War II veteran who competed in swimming, horseshoes and bowling events at the Fourth National Veterans Golden Age Games at Sherman, Texas. The 63-year-old Vaughan didn't win any gold medals, but his reward was meeting other veterans competing in various athletic events.

"It was a lot of fun and a change of pace. I met some very interesting people," said Vaughan, a member of Post 283, Bonham, Texas. On the campus of Austin College in Sherman in August 1990, 269 veterans-turned-athletes participated in the three-day gathering VA billed as "a national show-

case for the preventive and therapeutic medical value of sports and fitness in the lives of all older Americans."

The Golden Age Games are open to any veteran, age 55 or older, receiving care from a Department of Veterans Affairs health-care facility. The Texas games included 60 athletes in the wheelchair division. The Bonham VA Medical Center hosted the games, assisted by volunteers such as Shirley Medcalf, President of Post 283 Auxiliary in Bonham. Medcalf, along with other Legion Post volunteers, helped medical center staffers organize events. Arranging transportation to and from the event sites on campus for athletes, many with severe physical restrictions, was a major logistical challenge. All VA facilities are eligible to participate in the games, though not all take part. The veteran/athletes must

seek sponsorship for travel and other expenses from groups outside the VA network, such as Legion Posts or other veterans groups. Medcalf said Legion-affiliated groups logged 1,300 volunteer hours during the games, with most volunteers averaging 10 hours a day in the sweltering heat of summertime in Texas. But the heat and the hours were worth it, according to many of the volunteers.

"I noticed that you can see a lot of the competitors on an everyday basis and they don't always smile," Medcalf said. "But at the Golden Age Games they were always smiling. At the end of the day you could tell they were getting tired but they just kept going. It just livens them up."

The games gave veterans the chance to pursue fitness and fellowship. Athletes were grouped in three age categories: 55-62; 63-70; and 71 and older. The Open Division events included swimming, bicycling, table tennis, dominoes, tennis, shuffleboard, horseshoes, eight ball, bowling, checkers and croquet. Also included was the pentathlon competition of softball hit and throw, 50-yard walk, Frisbee throw and basketball free throw.

WHEELCHAIR Division events consisted of horseshoes, shuffleboard, croquet, bowling, table tennis and the pentathlon. The games represent a multi-event forum highlighting veterans' skills and enthusiasm, but they also symbolize VA's growing awareness that fitness and recreation therapy are prime components in meeting the needs of an aging veteran population. According to VA, veterans older than 65 numbered 5 million in 1985; today, the figure nears 7 million; and by 2000 the number of veterans 65 or older will reach 9 million.

"The overall purpose of the games is preventive medicine. Studies have shown a direct link between fitness and a person's emotional and physical well-being," said Bill Givens, a recreational therapist for the VA hospital in Topeka, Kan. Givens believes the games motivate patients to stay active and think about physical fitness all year. The games are particularly vital to patients fighting to recover from strokes or other debilitating illnesses—any condition that forces them to change their lifestyles.

"The program includes activities that accommodate as many disabilities as possible," Givens said. "We adapt

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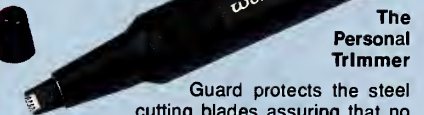
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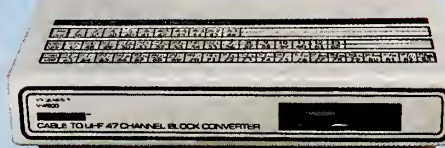
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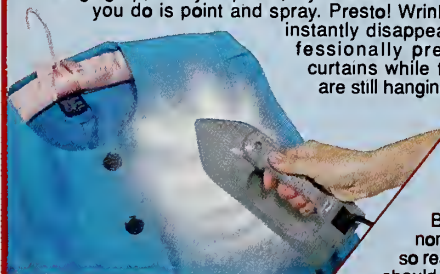
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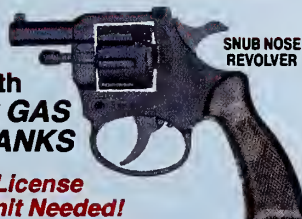
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NATIONAL VETERANS
Golden Age Games



MEDAL METTLE—Philip Cephas won a silver medal in the age 55-62 wheelchair pentathlon.

the activities to the age categories; that helps keep it competitive. At the Golden Age Games, it's the athletes who set the example to inspire recreational therapists, volunteers and their fellow veterans."

Frank Jones, 55, a Korean War veteran from the Canandaigua New York VA hospital, brought his powers of concentration to bear in solving the complexities of checkers. Jones is paralyzed from the neck down because of an aneurysm in his spine, but he won a gold medal in checkers.

Another competitor from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center, Haskell Manson, 64, tried his luck at croquet and shuffleboard, taking home a silver medal in the croquet competition. The former Army medic previously attended the nationals at Marion, Ind., and Fort Collins, Colo., and recognizes the games serve a dual purpose. "It gives you more confidence, more stamina. It's a good social experience as well as good physical exercise," said Manson, a member of Post 1, Albany, N.Y.

Manson accepts how the aging

process often erodes a person's vitality, though he insists on keeping the calendar at bay by staying as active as he can. "I do realize I'm getting older, but I try to keep a positive attitude. I sort of hold on to being a young soldier. I don't look at myself as an old soldier. I'm still young at heart."

Canandaigua recreational therapist Kay Cooper said she could feel the energy escalate at the center as the games approached. "These guys are pretty good and they know which events they want to enter. It is a morale booster, and they really enjoy the companionship of the guys from other VAs."

Ivan Kornutik should be counted among the outstanding competitors in the games held at Austin College. The staff named Kornutik, a 73-year-old, deaf paraplegic, the games' Most Inspirational Athlete. He won two gold medals—one in the wheelchair pentathlon and the other in horseshoes. Kornutik waded ashore at Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion in World War II.

Today Kornutik retains the competitive spirit that led him to "run" in marathons; his best time in a 26-mile marathon is a remarkable four hours flat. He was modest in receiving the honor, telling a VA staff member, "It's the people who have helped us get here and the host staff who are terrific. Without them, there would be no games."

THERAPEUTIC recreation promotes a winning attitude among older patients at VA centers that encourages physical activity as a central part of their lives. Deloris Clemons of the host Bonham VA Medical Center noticed the games' benefits among patients and staffers alike. Clemons admitted her emotions got the better of her at the opening ceremonies. Seeing all the veterans together, dressed in their white T-shirts and baseball hats, gave her a sense of the games' communal spirit. "It's very difficult to put into words the feeling you get when you attend an event like this," Clemons said. "The benefits veterans receive by taking part in the games speak for themselves."

"It's very rewarding to see our efforts help them and to see them respond," Clemons said. "They give back 10-fold what they're given. They're all winners just because they're willing to give. I think the main thing they learn is not to give up."

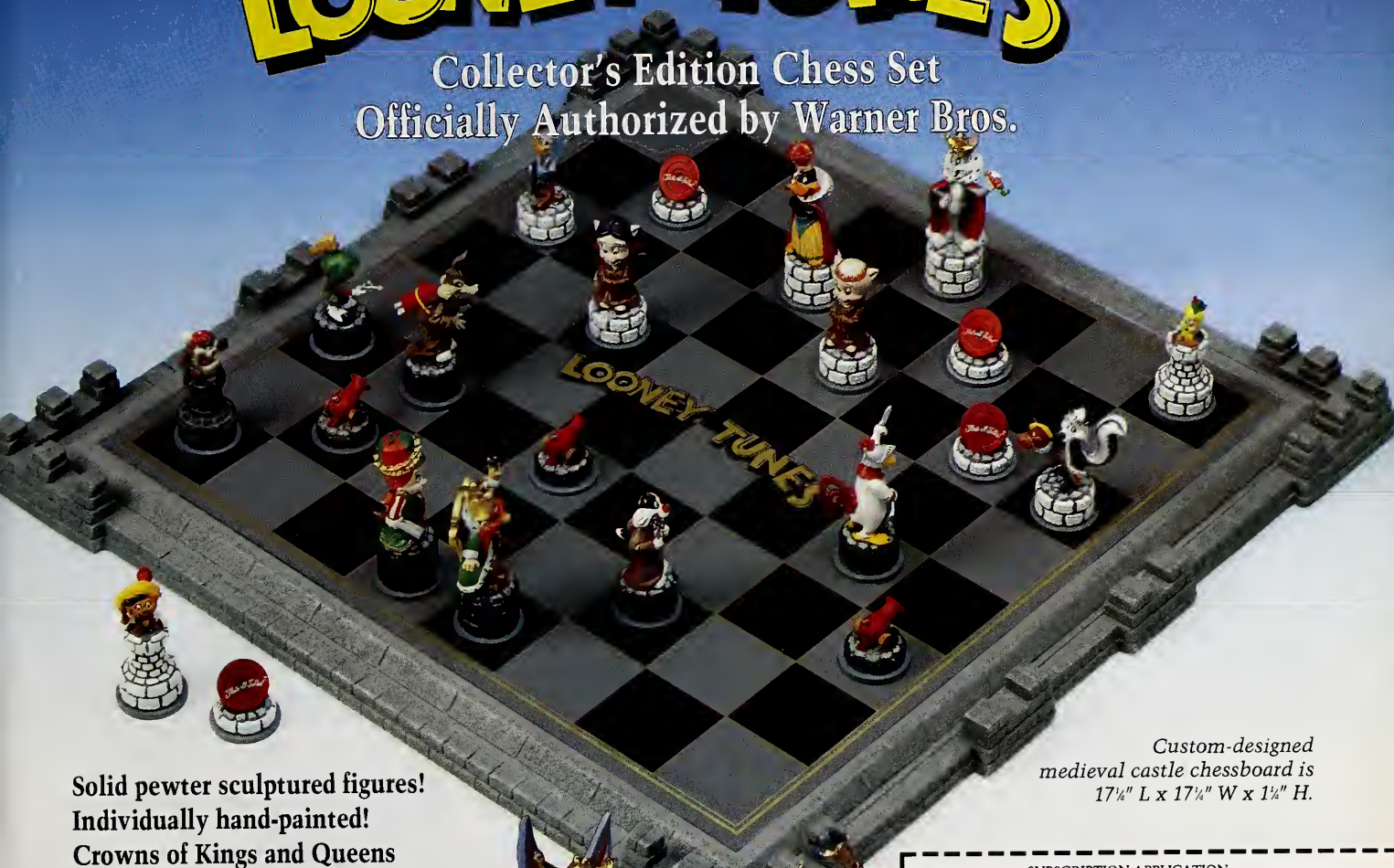
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CRITICAL CONNECTIONS

IF YOU want to see the failure of the VA systems, pass out a pack of smokes down at the mission," Legion volunteer Wendel Banks said. "You'll hear words like Dak To, An Khe, even Chosin and the Yalu River. These are the guys the system's failed."

Fred Smith agrees. Smith is the Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program (VVFAP) coordinator for The American Legion Department of Pennsylvania. In the more than two years the program has been in place in Pennsylvania, Smith has witnessed the struggles taking place in the "trenches of life" as Vietnam veterans and their families battle problems such as birth defects and unemployment. Smith's job is to find help through various agencies and organizations for the families. The VVFAP is a lifeline for veterans.

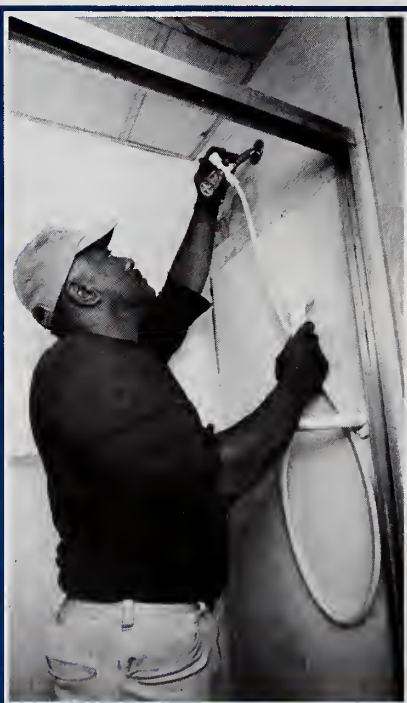
Smith met Banks after receiving a call from Connie Cox asking for help for her husband, Larry Cox, a Vietnam veteran, who was rated 100 percent disabled. He has difficulty walking and Mrs. Cox wanted safety handrails installed for the bath.

Smith contacted VA. They would supply the rails but they could not install them. Looking for help from private contractors proved futile, so Smith called John Morrison, Commander of Post 733 in Harrisburg, and asked if anyone in his Post could help. Morrison called Banks, an active member in the Post and a carpenter. That same weekend, on his own time, Banks installed the handrails.

The Cox family's problems weren't over. As Larry's condition worsens, it has become increasingly difficult for him to climb the stairs to the second floor bath. The VA has a program to modify homes of disabled veterans, but the amount authorized for the modifica-

The Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program provides referrals to programs and agencies that can help veterans in need.

PHOTOS BY JOHN E. SIMON



INTO THE BREECH—Legionnaire Wendel Banks volunteers his skills to help a fellow veteran.

tion falls far short of the cost of the project. Smith is still searching for help.

The VVFAP was born from the out-of-court settlement reached in a class action suit filed by a group of Vietnam

veterans against companies that produced chemicals used in defoliants. Part of that settlement—about \$52 million—was set aside to aid Vietnam veterans and their families. The American Legion created VVFAP using a small portion of the settlement. Smith has been Pennsylvania VVFAP coordinator from the beginning of the program.

"We don't offer cash assistance. Instead, we have a computerized network of agencies and programs, a sort of catalog of help," Smith said. "My job is to locate programs and agencies able to meet the veteran's needs."

The Andrew Zlacki family is another family helped by the VVFAP. Zlacki is an electronic engineer, but has been unable to work for the past two years. He suffers from toxic proferia, a debilitating skin disease related to chloracne. Zlacki distrusts the VA medical system. "He's afraid of the VA," Cindy, Zlacki's wife, said. "I took him there with a 104-degree fever and after waiting for hours, they misdiagnosed his ailment. He could have died."

After Zlacki's experience at the VA medical center, he went to a private physician who diagnosed him as suffering from arthritis, high blood pressure, and possible hyperglycemia, and discovered that part of Zlacki's pituitary gland is missing.

The Zlackis' medical problems extend to their children as well. All three children lack normal immunities. Their 10-year-old son has an elevated proferin level, is hyperactive and doctors suspect he suffers from a learning disability. He has been held back in third grade three times and is enrolled in a special reading program.

Each of the Zlacki children suffers from extremely strong allergies and, said Zlacki, "they seem to be constantly sick."

Smith supplied a number of referrals to the family and assisted them in

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REACH OUT—Fred Smith, Department of Pennsylvania VVFAP coordinator, helps a Vietnam veteran's family through referral.

applying for Supplemental Security Income benefits after they were forced to move in with Cindy's parents. "Fred has been so helpful," Cindy said. "I don't know what we would have done without him."

"Getting the word out has been one of the hardest parts of my job," Smith said. "I've attended Post meetings, set up booths in shopping malls, hung flyers in stores and at all the social service agencies." Smith works statewide with more than 800 Legion Posts in 32 Districts. He meets regularly with the state VVFAP Committee who sends information down the pipeline to the Posts. Yet, the word is slow to spread, he said.

Max Tenberg, VVFAP director of The American Legion office in Washington, D.C., said he'd like to see the Posts get more active in the program. "Legionnaires don't realize that, as VA cuts more and more benefits, they may find themselves in need of the services offered by VVFAP."

Tenberg said although the program is available only for Vietnam veterans and their families at this time, the Legion is applying for grants from a variety of sources to subsidize the program after the funds dry up. "We eventually intend to offer this help to any veteran, regardless of his service era," he said.

The need is there. Take the case of Ernest Wolf, a skilled machinist from Tennessee, now living near Wilkes-Barre, Pa. About two years ago, his physical condition began to deteriorate.

CURRENTLY 12 Departments participate in VVFAP, and six plan to start programs next year.

He was diagnosed by VA as suffering from severe arthritis in his knees, inner ear problems, glaucoma and was scheduled to undergo open-heart surgery. He lost his job and he and his family were forced to accept public assistance.

"It was really getting hard for me to walk," Wolf said. "VA said I needed walking canes, but they wouldn't supply them. My records are back in Tennessee at the Alvin C. York VA Hospital, but they refuse to release them. Without them, VA limits the help I can receive."

While Wolf battles the bureaucratic red tape, he still needs medical treatment. That's what brought Smith into the picture. "I was finally able to get an appointment with VA," Wolf said. "I live about six miles from the clinic and they have a van, supplied by another veterans' organization, but they wouldn't

pick me up." Wolf's voice was bitter as he added, "They said I could walk in."

Often, it is a family member who needs help. John and Dora, who requested their last names not be used, have two daughters, Joy and Faith. Faith is 19 and suffers from a learning disability. In spite of her handicap, she has always been outgoing. However, from time to time, she suffered from behavioral problems. When she was placed in a state treatment facility, she was treated with Thorazine, a drug that has been called the "zombie-drug" because it controls behavior.

Faith's behavior changed drastically. When she came home, she would hide, refuse to go out, was uncommunicative and subject to sudden mood swings. "It was like having a total stranger in the house," John said.

To compound the problem, John and Dora began having marital problems, primarily because of the stress created over Faith's treatment. The young woman's caseworker refused to change the treatment even after Faith's physical health began to decline and her weight dropped below 100 pounds. That's when John called Smith.

"The Legion has been terrific," Dora said. "Fred put us in contact with the Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy people, and they placed Faith in a different facility with a new caseworker."

"We were able to get counseling for ourselves, too, and we've become a much closer family," John said. "We hope to attend Wilderness Camp, a family retreat in Minnesota for kids like Faith and for parents like us. Fred's looking into helping us go up there."

The VVFAP is a joint funding project. Under the rules of the court, the coordinator's salary and the cost of maintaining the VVFAP computer network is paid by the funds. The Legion Department, however, supplies an office, secretarial assistance and a phone. Currently 12 Departments participate and, according to Tenberg, six more plan to begin their own VVFAP in 1992.

As state-of-the-art as the referral system is, only one thing makes the system truly function, and that's caring. Connie Cox said with tears in her eyes, "We talked to so many people trying to find help for Larry. The American Legion and guys like Wendel Banks were the only ones who cared."

Banks just shrugs as he packs up his carpentry tools. "If veterans don't help each other, who will? That's what it's all about." by Ken Scharnberg

• Despite the
• success of the
• Patriot in the
• Gulf War,
• Congress has
• refused to fund
• other SDI proj-
• ects to protect
• America from
• ballistic missiles.

EARLY this year, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff took time off from planning the Gulf War and drove from the Pentagon to Capitol Hill to emphasize to Congress one simple, stark, ominous fact. Against a background of possible civil war in the Soviet Union, Gen. Colin Powell declared, "Whatever the future state may look like, the land of the czars and commissars, after all is said and done, will still possess by far the strongest military force on the Eurasian land mass. The Soviet Union, now and in the future, will remain the one country capable of destroying the United States in less than 30 minutes."

Why are Chairman Powell and other responsible officials so worried about the vulnerability of our nation?

We cannot stop even one long-range ballistic missile, now or for years to come.

Congress, which will appropriate \$1.3 trillion in the coming fiscal year, ignores the realities of life as proved in the Gulf War: A missile can stop a missile. Patriot proved it. A combined space-based (Brilliant Pebbles), ground-based (Super Patriot) missile shield can protect our nation, our forces around the world, and other countries.

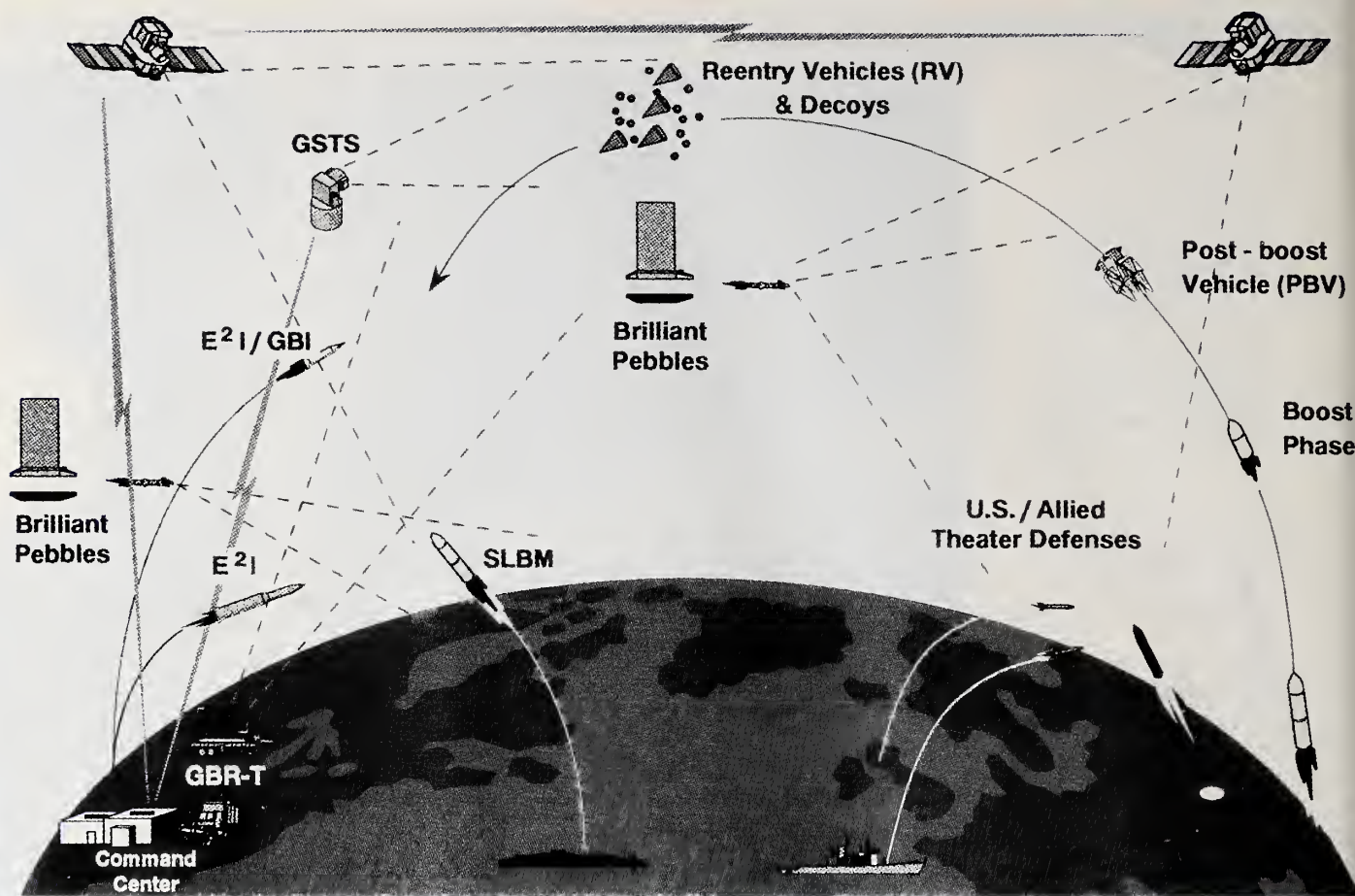
Stephen J. McCormick is an Arlington, Va., communications consultant.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN MAGGARD

SWORDS AND SHIELDS

By Stephen J. McCormick



GPALS ELEMENTS—strategic and theater

But we are not in the process of building this complete shield. Gen. Powell's dire warning to the House Armed Services Committee fell upon deaf ears. The committee not only decimated the modest Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) budget proposed by President Bush, but also is the same panel which, in April 1987, voted to deny all funds for testing the Patriot as an anti-missile system. Fortunately, the full Senate restored the money. How many thousands of Americans, Israelis and Saudis would have died or been maimed in the Scud attacks during the Gulf War if this committee had had its way?

President Bush, long a strong advocate of a missile shield, proposed a new approach to this challenge in his State of the Union address—a combined ground and space effort called Global Protection Against Limited Strikes (GPALS). But in May, the House voted to destroy the space-based elements of the program, and seriously cut the ground-based systems.

In August, at long last the Senate recognized the need for a missile

defense and approved a start on a ground-based operation. As to the most effective, least expensive element in the total missile defense plan—Brilliant Pebbles—it continues on the shelf for more "research and development." Sometime this fall Senate and House members will meet in conference to thrash out their differences.

VETVOICE

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Do you believe the Strategic Defense Initiative should receive more funding? Call your opinion to 1-900-28-VOICE. You can vote, receive a tally that includes your vote, listen to opinions of others and record your own opinion.

*Calls cost \$1 per minute and proceeds support Legion programs. Opinions from the Vetvoice lines published in the magazine are indicated with a **V** symbol.*

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Supposedly the Cold War is over, so why be concerned about the Soviets? The Soviet Union is an economic basket-case, but it is, militarily, still a superpower. Months ago, the strong possibility of domestic violence in the Soviet Union caused KGB headquarters to inform its foreign stations around the world that "civil war in the Soviet Union is imminent." And Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic, told Western reporters, "The situation is very tense, very tense."

Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze fears civil war could "ignite giant stockpiles of nuclear and chemical weapons." With many of the Soviet republics in unrest, these fears are well founded, as exemplified by an incident in February 1990, when Soviet troops were called in to protect a nuclear weapons storage facility near Baku that was temporarily overrun by armed rebels. This led Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, to caution, "Chaos in a nation that possesses thousands of nuclear weapons is not in our national security interest." By intent

SWORDS AND SHIELDS

or mistake, buttons can be pushed.

The *Evans & Novak Defense Letter* tells of "the Pentagon's nightmare that various governmental units, from Moscow on down to breakaway republics with nukes, will seek to sell the dreaded weapons to the highest bidder."

Accidents are not uncommon in the Soviet Union; witness the awesome nuclear disaster at Chernobyl which was caused, in Mikhail Gorbachev's words, "by careless, irresponsible officials." And, though little publicized, Soviet officials have admitted that one of their ICBMs was accidentally launched during maintenance, but that "the first stage of the rocket did not properly ignite, and crashed back to earth."

THE ominous danger we face concerns not only the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs but many others as well. As John Fialka reported in the *Wall Street Journal*: "No one is more concerned than the Soviets themselves, who have been telling U.S. officials and experts that the Soviet Union has moved to consolidate its control over its estimated 33,000 nuclear warheads."

Sen. Timothy Wirth of Colorado, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said, "The irony is that here we are in a day and age when the threat of nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of an inadvertent release or an accidental war increases."

Early in June came a warning from Soviet Col. Viktor Alksnis, Chairman of Soyuz Faction, Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. He told a British publication, "If civil war here is unavoidable, it will involve nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction. Yes, we shall perish, but we shall take the whole world to the grave. You will perish with us."

Insight magazine disclosed this spring a CIA report which concluded that each of the 10 warheads on a modified Soviet SS-18 has an explosive yield of 900 kilotons—that's 900,000 tons of TNT. One long-range, 10-warhead, very accurate missile is capable of traveling thousands of miles, carrying a load of 9 million tons of mass destruction. Each warhead can be guided to a separate target. Said a Pentagon official, "What a crazy world we are in that we must live with such weapons."

Please turn to page 64

SUPER PATRIOT—This Patriot missile is launched to intercept a Lance missile, proving the Patriot's ability to destroy incoming tactical ballistic missiles.

RAYTHEON COMPANY



HOW WASHINGTON KILLED THE ECONOMY

Three pieces of unsound legislation set the stage for the current recession by raising taxes and pulling the rug out from under real estate investments and the S&Ls, according to this economist.

A

ALTHOUGH there was mismanagement and greed involved with the S&L economic fiasco, there was also mismanagement on the part of the politicians, according to Paul Craig Roberts of the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington, D.C. Roberts states: "... It's not finished. Now the problems are spreading into the FDIC, which insures ordinary bank deposits."

Roberts has the William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy at the Center, is Chairman of the Institute for Political Economy, and is a Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is a former editor and columnist for the Wall Street Journal; he is currently a columnist for Business Week and the Washington Times, and a frequent contributor to the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times and Il Sole 24 Ore. He is also nationally syndicated by the Scripps Howard News Service.

Roberts was educated at the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Virginia, the University of California at Berkeley, and Oxford University. He served as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during 1981 and 1982.

Roberts addresses why and how the United States' economy slipped into a recession in the following interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

American Legion Magazine: The U.S. economy seems to be just limping along these days, with production down and unemployment and bankruptcies increasing. What's wrong?

Paul Craig Roberts: The trouble is, we're in a gratuitous recession, a recession that was unnecessary and one which

we certainly did not need.

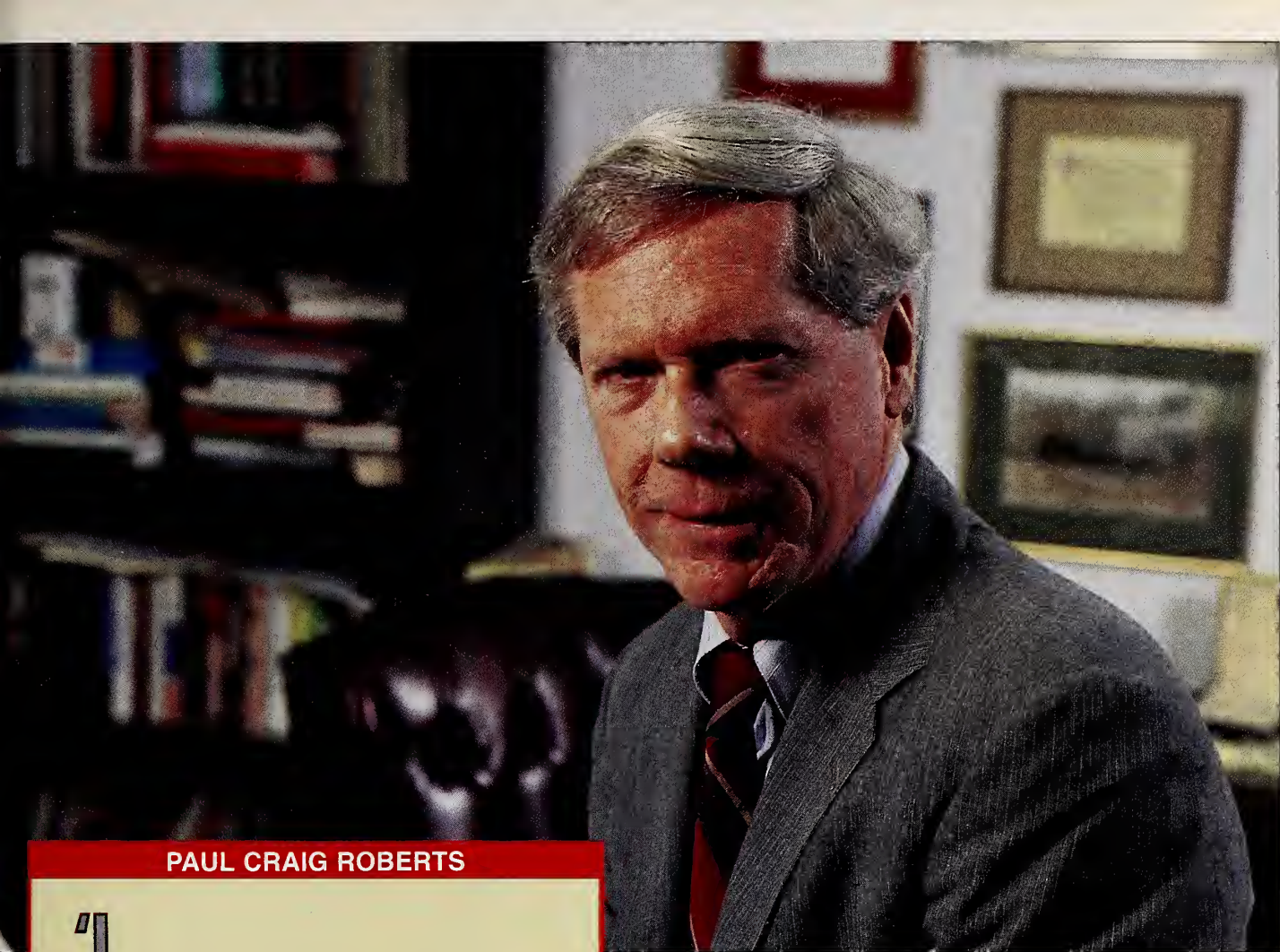
Q. What brought it on?

A. A failure in economic policy and the lack of leadership, or the wrong leadership. In 1990, Congress, with the agreement of the administration, passed a gratuitous tax increase. For the first time since the 1930s, we raised taxes as we entered a recession, and as a consequence none of the expected revenue increases will take place. In fact, the government has already abandoned its prediction that the tax increase would raise \$165 billion over the next five years because the first budget issued after the tax increase forecasts \$300 million less revenues than was forecast prior to the tax increase. So, that was obviously a mistake.

Q. How about other government policies?

A. Federal domestic spending is rising rapidly; in two years of the Bush administration, it's risen 10 percent per year. We've had the Federal Reserve fighting economic growth with a sustained period of no money growth. We've had an extraordinary outpouring of new regulation which is very expensive, not just in terms of equipment and product cost to affected industries, but also in terms of the delays to obtain approvals. Environmental controls are the biggest culprit, with the Clean Air Act a big player. Then, we've also had the Handicapped Act and face the prospect of a racial quota bill—which would turn every hiring and promotion decision into a potential lawsuit. We have an extraordinary explosion in product liability problems, which is the route for lawyers to sue every corporation under every pretext.

So, overall, the United States is becoming a very expensive place to site real business investment.



ROB CRANDALL/PICTURE GROUP

PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

"I think government spending detracts from successful economies. The less government spending, the better!"

Q. You've written on the blows dealt real estate by the 1986 Tax Reform legislation. Has this been a factor in the recession?

A. Absolutely. The 1986 tax law pulled the tax rug out from under all ongoing real estate projects by tremendously reducing the value of these projects. In addition, it raised the capital gains tax rate 40 percent. So people in these projects were forced to walk away from them, and the ownership reverted to the creditors who had lent the money—mainly, the S&Ls. These were the weakest link in the financial system, and they stumbled and we've had enormous costs imposed on taxpayers from this one act. In other words, the provisions in the 1986 tax reform that affected real estate have been the most expensive legislation in the history of the country. It's costing us \$500 billion dollars.

Q. In bailout costs for the S&Ls?

A. Right...and it's not finished. Now the problems are spreading into the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) which insures ordinary bank deposits. And if the government worsens the banking situation the way it did the

S&Ls with the 1989 S&L bill, we'll be facing an even bigger bailout.

Q. What can be done to get things rolling again?

A. I think it'll be difficult to get anything rolling that depends on credit expansion until policies are changed to stabilize real estate values. As long as commercial properties are under downward price pressure, the collateral that stands behind existing loans on the books of banks is eroded. The banks then have to reserve more of their capital against bad debts, so they have less for lending. The government needs to make the connection between the capital gains tax cut proposal, which would stabilize real estate values, and the ability of the United States to get out of recession.

Q. But weren't S&L difficulties in many cases also the result of mismanagement and greed?

A. Yes, but I think the mismanagement is primarily at the policy-making level, on part of the politicians in Washington. What were policymakers thinking when they put those crippling provisions in the tax reform bill? The U.S. Treasury officials were sitting there saying, "Oh, we're going to collect lots of revenues from this." Well, they didn't; they actually lost \$500 billion in revenues. Where was the policymakers' intelligence when they first encouraged the S&Ls to go into riskier ventures as a way of improving their profits and then cut the ground out from under the deals with tax reform? As the coup de grace, policymakers saddled them

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- Fifty-one years ago,
- the Pennsylvania
- Turnpike became
- the first modern
- superhighway, pro-
- viding drivers non-
- stop passage across
- the Appalachians
- and paving the way
- for future highways.

MARVEL OF THE MOTOR AGE

By William Ecenbarger

FOR two generations of Americans, the Pennsylvania Turnpike has been a route to the Liberty Bell, Valley Forge and the Gettysburg Battlefield. Now there is another historic treasure along the way—the Pennsylvania Turnpike itself, which turned 50 in 1990.

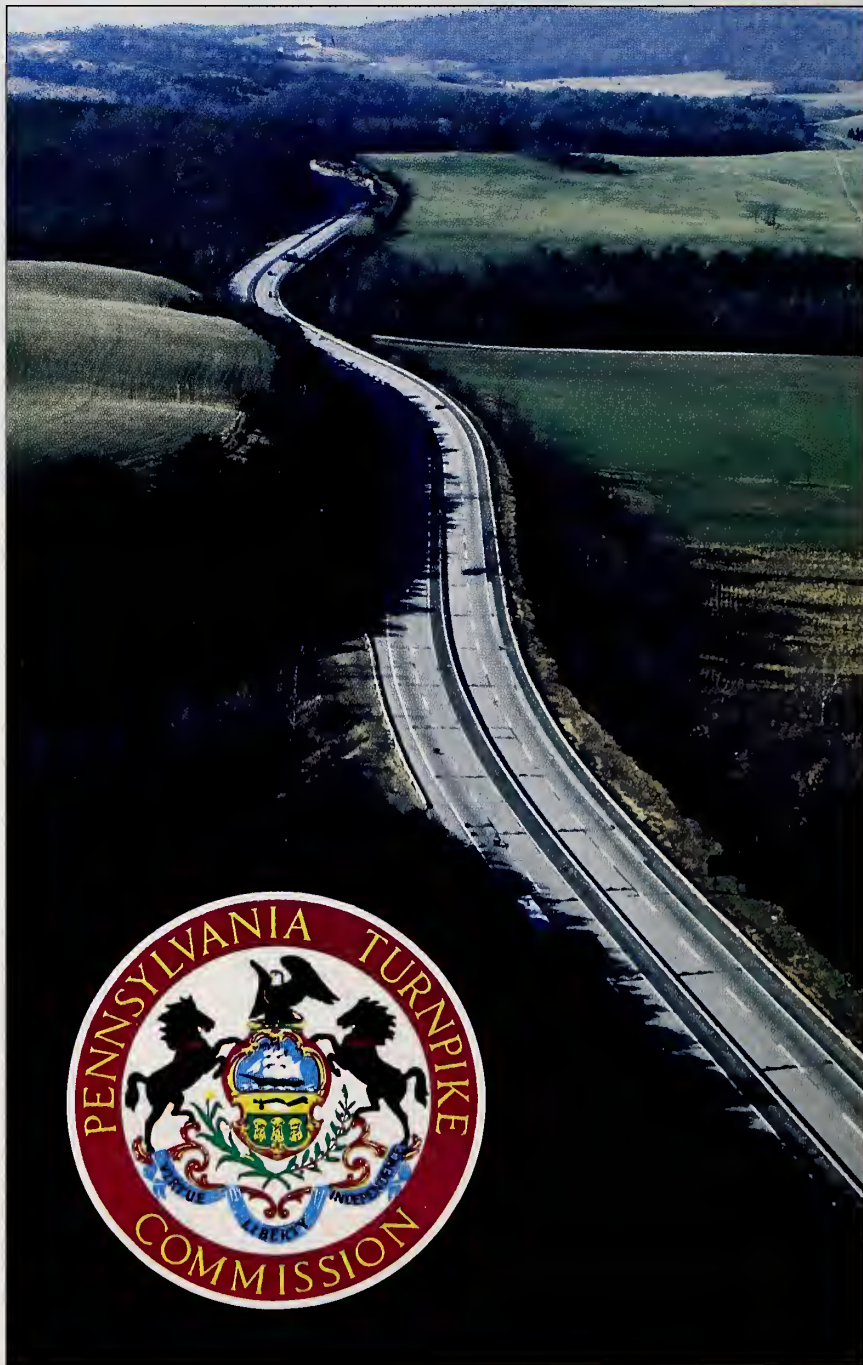
It was built by freewheeling, fearless men who ignored angry landowners with shotguns and skeptical Wall Street investors with myopia to transform a 50-year-old abandoned railroad bed into a superhighway that soared across, and occasionally through, the Appalachian Mountains.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike was the first of the modern superhighways, and its construction inspired other road-builders to drain “bottomless” marshes for the New Jersey Turnpike, move entire rivers to make way for the New York Thruway, and bridge commuter rail lines in Connecticut that were so busy that the maximum work day was 60 minutes.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike has never used a penny of state tax money, never lost money and never knowingly given anyone a free ride. Its obituary has been written several times, but now at 50 its health is robust and, indeed, it may be a model for the future.

It is, in a very real sense, America’s highway—a fenced city, 470 miles long and 200 yards wide, with a heterogen-

William Ecenbarger is a Pennsylvania-based free-lance writer.



ous and resurgent stream of mobile citizens.

The approximate route of the turnpike across the Appalachians was first used by bison and elk, and later it became the original Indian trail from the Atlantic Seaboard to the Ohio Valley. The first survey of the route was made in 1837 by John Augustus Roebling, a young engineering apprentice, who many years later would help his son design and build the Brooklyn Bridge.

But the final route was the product of an old-fashioned rate war between the Pennsylvania and New York Central Railroads. William H. Vanderbilt, son of Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt, ordered the construction of a South Pennsylvania railroad line to compete with the Pennsy "Main Line" in 1882. Three years and \$10 million later, the project was abandoned when the two transportation giants made their peace. The incomplete roadbed and nine partially bored tunnels lay abandoned for 50 years. When the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission was created, it adopted the old rail route almost in entirety.

The construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike captured the imagination of a Depression-weary America. Even the best roads of the day were high-crowned and weak-shouldered, with two lanes and many unpaved sections. Route 1, the East Coast's main north-south route, went through the down-towns of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Coast-to-coast driving required drivers to take Route 30 to the middle of Chicago, where they picked up Route 66.

THE builders of the Pennsylvania Turnpike envisioned a road across mountains that was two-thirds straight-away and permitted drivers to go 160 miles without shifting gears. It would be the marvel of the "Motor Age"—no intersections, no railroad grade crossings, no traffic lights. The cloverleaf, that ubiquitous concrete pretzel of today, was totally new. The project was compared to the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Egypt and France's Maginot Line, which would crumble a few weeks before the opening of the turnpike.

It was designed so that no grade would be more than 3 percent—a three-foot rise to every 100 feet of length. Sections of the existing William Penn and Lincoln Highways had 9 percent grades. Crossing the Appalachians on



GOING MOBILE—
Cars lined up at the opening of the turnpike's Pittsburgh exit. At 12:01 a.m., Aug. 7, 1951, the first motorist drove through the gate (above). The Cove Valley Service Plaza in 1949 became a state-of-the-art, roadside attraction (right).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION

either of these highways involved a cumulative ascent of 13,000 feet; the total climb on the turnpike would be 4,000 feet. Most of the road was on the southern and western exposures of the hills and mountains, meaning the sun would aid in the clearing of snow and ice. The entire 160-mile roadway would be enclosed by a fence that, according to contract specifications, was to be "horse-high, bull-strong and hog-tight."

Some 18,000 men worked on the turnpike for an average hourly wage of 75 cents. Contractors were required to give men on relief preference in hiring for the common laborer jobs, but there were many experienced workers from the Boulder Dam and New York City Subway projects. Later many of the men, methods and machines used in building the turnpike would construct a 700-mile supply line into China called the Burma Road. As Hitler grew bolder in Europe, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt prodded the commission to hurry the construction work. Using

floodlights, the men worked in three seven-hour shifts, with the hour between shifts used for equipment maintenance. Nineteen workers lost their lives during the construction of the turnpike—all but one of them in tunnel construction. Tunnel workers were paid an extra 15 cents an hour.

On Aug. 18, 1939, two weeks before Hitler invaded Poland to plunge the world into war, laborers found 21 sticks of dynamite under a small bridge over Snake Spring Valley Run. The dynamite had been capped, fused and lighted, but the fuse burned out before it reached the explosives. An extensive investigation failed to find the culprits, but it was widely believed to be the work of German saboteurs.

On Oct. 1, 1940—two years to the day after the turnpike commission asked for bids from contractors—the "World's Greatest Highway" was opened to traffic. Drivers lined up at the toll booths for 10 hours before the opening, and the first car through was driven

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PAPER CHASE

• Looking for your
• birth certificate,
• W-2 forms, receipts,
• deeds or stocks?
• You can save time
• by knowing
• which records to
• keep, how long to
• keep them and
• where they should
• be stored.

By Gordon Williams

I'm a saver," said Nadine Gordon Lee, who likes to keep all her financial papers, from canceled checks to credit card statements. But as a partner in an accounting firm, she knows how to manage that paper. Twice a year—at tax time in April, and in December when she plans for the new year—all those papers get organized.

Lee uses a big accordion file with a different pocket for each kind of record: bank statements in one pocket, credit card receipts in another. "Everyone develops their own system," she said.

Gordon Williams is a correspondent for ABC News and frequently writes for this magazine.

"But you do have to develop a system."

Just living a normal life will produce enough paper to flood you out of house and home: pay stubs and bank statements, insurance policies and tax returns. Keep everything, and you'll never find the papers you need. Dump things, and what do you do when the Internal Revenue challenges?

But you don't have to keep every scrap of paper. You only have to keep the important papers—once you know which are important and how long to keep them. Spend a rainy Sunday weeding out every record and file you have. Do it regularly and you'll free valuable storage space and be able to find important papers when you need them.

Keep your birth certificate for life, the deed on your house until you sell it, and your pay stub until you get the W-2 form for the year from your employer. Dump such routine papers as canceled checks, utility bills and charge card receipts at the end of each year—except those needed for taxes or to document major purchases.

There's an appropriate place to store your papers. The most important ones belong in a bank safety deposit box which costs \$25 to \$50 a year.

Have a security chest at home for valuable papers you want readily available. Such chests won't protect valuables from theft, but they will keep papers safe in a fire. You'll pay around \$30 for a chest the size of a shoe box—big enough to store folded papers.

"Make sure whatever you buy is rated for protection by Underwriters Laboratories," said Jim Brush, mar-

keting vice-president for Sentry Group, the biggest maker of home safes and chests. To win that rating, Brush said, the chest must protect papers for at least 30 minutes against temperatures of 1,550 degrees. Keep everything else in low-security storage at home: a file cabinet, or cardboard boxes.

Start your cleanup by dividing your papers into five groups:

Lifetime Papers. These are the documents you might need at any time until you die: Your will, power of attorney, birth certificate, marriage license, divorce papers, military records, and all pension, Individual Retirement Account or Keogh Plan records.

Mostly these lifetime papers will go into your bank box—with one important exception. When you die, your bank box will probably be sealed. Your lawyer or executor should have a copy of the will. Keep another copy of the will, your life insurance policy, and the deed to the cemetery plot in your home security chest.

Tax Papers. "My advice is to keep everything for six years," said Lee. The IRS has three years after you file to challenge your tax return. If it suspects you underreported income by 25 percent or more, it can stretch the limit to six years.

Save every piece of paper that establishes income or deductions: W-2 and 1099 forms, canceled checks, receipts, and the rest. You can throw out routine checks, but save the register you entered your checks. The more evidence you can throw at the IRS, the better. "Unless you have substantiation," Lee said, "the IRS will presume



ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY SEEVER

PAPER WAIT—Save everything and you'll never find the papers you need. Dispose of them and you'll panic when the IRS calls.

your deduction is not deductible." For more information on what tax papers to save, ask the IRS for Publication 552—Recordkeeping for Individuals.

Life-of-the-Asset Papers. You only need these as long as you have the asset: the deed to the house until it is sold, a CD until it matures and you have the tax statement.

Using these guidelines keep:

- Records of investments until the investment matures or is sold, and the tax statement is in hand.
- Insurance policies until they expire and you have the new policy.
- Receipts or bills of sale on major purchases—showing when you bought and how much you paid—as long as you own the items. You'll need them for the insurance company in case of fire or theft.
- Records of loans owed you until you are paid. Keep records of loans you paid indefinitely.
- Keep stock and bond certificates, CDs, and loan papers in your bank box.

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YOUR RECORD-KEEPING CHECK LIST

HOW LONG TO KEEP PAPERS

WHERE TO KEEP THEM

FOR LIFE

Birth certificates
Military records
Marriage license
Divorce papers, custody agreement
IRAs, Keogh Plans, pension records
Wills, powers of attorney

Bank
Bank
Bank
Bank
Bank
Home security chest*

FOR SIX YEARS

Tax returns
W-2 and 1099 statements
Documents establishing income or supporting deductions

Home storage
Home storage
Home storage

UNTIL IT MATURES, EXPIRES, OR IS SOLD AND YOU RECEIVE TAX DOCUMENTS

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds
CDs
Savings accounts
Loan agreements
Insurance policies
Canceled checks or receipts for major purchases

Bank
Bank
Home security chest
Bank
Home security chest*
Home storage

UNTIL HOME IS SOLD AND YOU RECEIVE TAX DOCUMENTS

Deed
Records of capital improvements

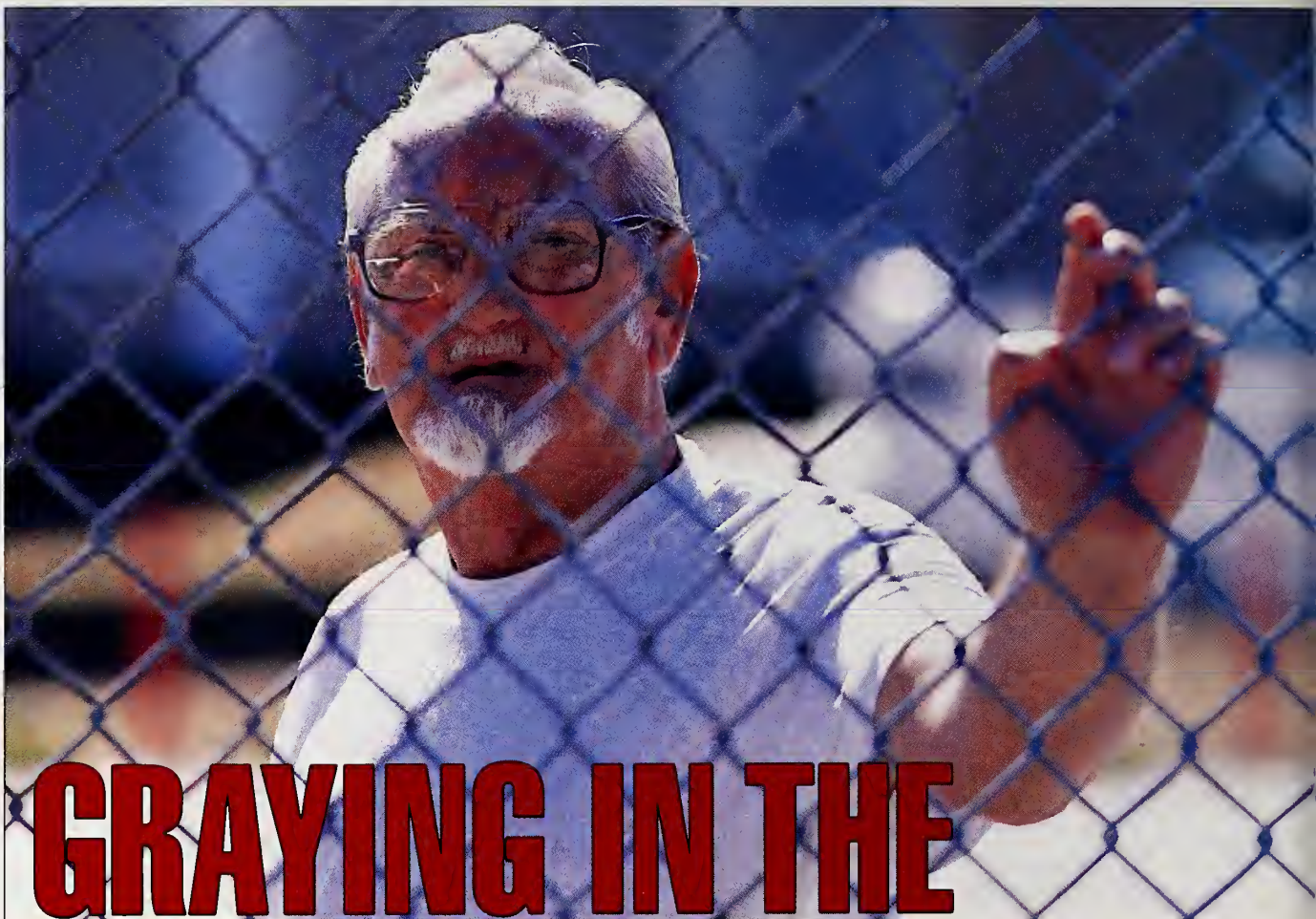
Bank
Home storage

UPDATE YEARLY

Household inventory
Doomsday list

Home security chest**
Home security chest*

*Attorney should have copy of the will, power of attorney, life insurance policy, and doomsday list. **Keep copy of household inventory at the bank.



GRAYING IN THE BIG HOUSE

By Vernon Pizer

QUENTON Brown's age and IQ were almost identical—50 and 51—which helps explain the senselessness of what he did on June 7, 1973, in Morgan City, La. He robbed a bakery of \$117 and a 15-cent pie, then crawled under a nearby house and remained there eating the pie until the police arrived and collared him. Although it was conceded at his trial that he had the intelligence of a 3-year-old, he was

Vernon Pizer is a veteran journalist based in Valdosta, Ga., who frequently contributes to this magazine.

given a 30-year sentence with no possibility of parole.

Today, 18 years into his sentence during which he has been a model inmate, Brown suffers from emphysema, bleeding ulcers, a crushed esophagus and general debility. In 2003, when he will be 80, if he survives that long, Brown will be deemed to have repaid society for his \$117, cherry pie-robbery and will be turned loose.

Pointing to Quenton Brown as an example, George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley termed the protracted retention of elderly, low-risk, relatively minor-crime prisoners "an emerging national scandal. We're reaching institutional meltdown; we can't build cells fast enough to keep up with the growing offender population, but we fail to release geriatric

AGING—Older inmates, such as Quenton Brown (prior to release), are estimated to cost \$69,000 a year to keep in prison.

prisoners to make room for younger, more dangerous ones."

Forty-two states and the District of Columbia are under court order to relieve prison overcrowding, yet, as Turley emphasized, "Every minute four new prisoners line up for cells." This concern for gridlock in the correctional system is echoed by Dr. Julia G. Hall, Drexel University sociologist, who said, "America is in a punitive mood, now incarcerating more people per capita for longer periods of time than any other modern nation in the world including South Africa."

At present there are more than 1 million inmates in state and federal U.S. prisons. About one in every 50 is older than 55, some over 80. By the year 2001, according to Turley, "If nothing is done to halt the increase, there will be 125,000 elderly prisoners, enough to shut down the system completely."

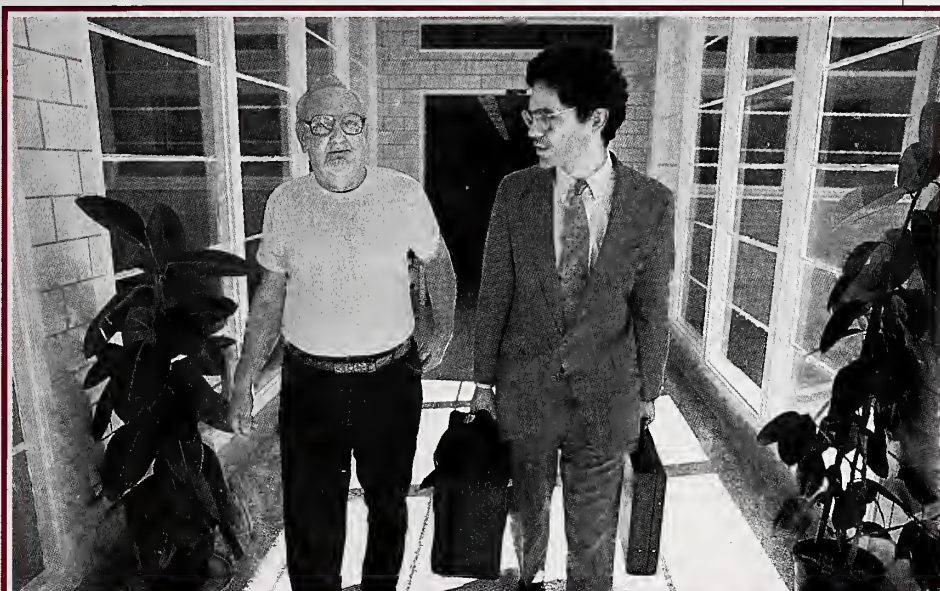
The inescapable fact is that 125,000 geriatric inmates would very likely spell bankruptcy for the correctional system. On the wrong side of the bars, just as on

the right side, nobody gets old on the cheap. As they age, prisoners need eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, prostheses, pills for this, salves for that. They need kidney dialysis, insulin shots, special diets, and surgery. Uniform buttons and shoelaces have to be replaced by Velcro strips to accommodate arthritic fingers. Maintaining all of the Quenton Browns behind bars is an enormous drain on the public treasury. Hall and Turley agree that an older prisoner is about three times more costly than a younger one. Turley, whose pencil is as sharp as his mind, has figured that it takes \$69,000 a year to keep an elder-cons behind bars.

But that is only the drumstick on the albatross around the taxpayer's neck. It is estimated that by 2001 the cost of a new cell (with all its ancillary infrastructure) will have risen to about \$200,000. A little arithmetic—125,000 elder-cons times \$200,000—reveals that those geriatric inmates will be occupying cells with an astounding capital value of \$25 billion, assuming one to a cell. Add to that the \$69,000 for annual upkeep (allowing nothing for inflation in the interim) and the figure mounts to well over \$33 billion, making clear why Turley says 125,000 elderly prisoners would shut down the system.

NEITHER Hall nor Turley are blinded by the age factor. They do not advocate paroling prisoners simply because they have grown gray behind bars. Hall asserted that "to release inmates on the basis of age alone would be sheer folly." As Turley expressed it, "The Charles Mansons should never be released." But what of the overwhelming majority of elder-cons who did not commit vicious crimes and have had clean slates in prison? How much of a threat would they be to the public if they were turned loose? According to the experts, precious little.

The U.S. Parole Commission cites age as the most reliable predictor of recidivism. Thus, the older a prisoner is at time of release, the less likely he is to again run afoul of the law. A recent Bureau of Justice statistics study quantified the rate of repeat offenses according to age. Within one year of release, 22 percent of prisoners between the ages of 18 and 24 will have committed a new crime. There is a sharp drop-off in recidivism at the 35-year-old level. After 45 only 2.1 percent of released prisoners become



RELEASE—Attorney Jonathan Turley, right, has secured the release of 42 prisoners, including Brown, through the Project for Older Prisoners.

recidivists. After 55 less than 1 percent of ex-inmates commit a new offense. And people 60 and older are responsible for only .07 percent of new crimes.

Ironically, because of pressure from the courts to relieve prison overcrowding, many younger, more threatening offenders are free while older, less threatening offenders remain behind bars. Last year, Louisiana had 16,000 outstanding felony warrants on which it was not making arrests because it had no place to put the felons. To give itself a little breathing room, Indiana adopted

a one-week moratorium on prison admissions last summer while it initiated a one-for-one policy—one admission for one release. Oregon marches to a different drummer—to cope with overcrowding it releases a prisoner for one week while a second inmate occupies his bunk; when he returns he takes the bunk of a third man who gets a seven-day release. While jurisdictions from coast to coast strain to stave off prison gridlock, the Quenton Browns could relieve the pressure.

Penal experts who fret over unmenacing older inmates occupying cells urgently needed to house menacing younger felons advocate adopting alternatives to traditional incarceration for the elder-cons. "By using less expensive, community-based alternatives such as house arrest, electronic monitoring and intensive parole supervision, we could virtually eliminate the costliest segment of the prison population, while alleviating overcrowding and making room for the truly dangerous criminals," Hall said. According to Turley, most states spend about \$65 a day to house an inmate, but electronic bracelets can monitor a prisoner at home for roughly \$8 a day.

Those who propose the selective early release of elderly prisoners are acutely aware that the road back into society is extremely difficult for men and women who have spent long periods behind bars. Their needs, especially their health needs, have grown in

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POPS Screens Inmates

AS THE magazine went to press, Quenton Brown was released through the Project for Older Prisoners (POPS), a program started by attorney Jonathan Turley three years ago. POPS identifies prisoners who are least likely to commit another crime and recommends their release. Volunteer law students thoroughly analyze prisoners and conduct interviews to determine the prisoners' employment potential. The project started in New Orleans and Washington, D.C., and some 100 law students are working with about 120 prisoners. Forty-two prisoners, including Brown, have been released through POPS efforts. Brown now lives in Florida and works as a gardener.



BERENHOLTZ/STOCK MARKET



BACK HOME—From Maine to California, America welcomes her warriors home in a grand manner.

Welcome Home AMERICA

AMOTHER stood amid a crowd of thousands of mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives and sons and daughters. Her olive drab T-shirt read: "My Daughter Wears Combat Boots." She was there for a welcome home celebration. She pointed across the mall to a petite Army sergeant in a cluster of NCOs and other enlisted people and said, "That's my daughter." Pride shone in her eyes.

And as the T-shirt said, her daughter was wearing combat boots and the familiar desert togs that Americans came to know as they watched events unfold in the Middle East last fall.

In cities, towns and villages, in every state in the nation, Americans spent the

summer welcoming home the heroes of Desert Storm. America suddenly came alive and patriotism is once again worn, waved and sung with pride.

A Coast Guard petty officer held his wife tightly as they watched the fireworks illuminating the night sky. She said, "I watched him come home from Vietnam when not even the neighbors stopped to welcome him back. I saw his spirit almost broken and listened to him cry late at night when he'd open his 'Nam scrapbook and think about all his friends who had died." A rocket exploded overhead, sending a golden shower of sparks across the sky. She smiled and hugged him closer. In a voice that was almost a whisper, she added, "It's about time."

A young man dressed in desert cammies sat beneath his unit's sign at a

troops' picnic. A small sign next to him read: "Welcome home, Dad."

When asked if he and his father had both been in Desert Storm, he replied, "I don't remember Dad. He died in Vietnam when I was a baby." He gestured at the milling troops, the laughing families, the fluttering flags, and said, "This homecoming is for him, too."

There is a price that must be paid for freedom and peace. A cannon's report echoed across the War Memorial, then a voice announced, "Jeffery Settimi, U.S. Navy." Silence, then the cannon roared again. "James Miller Jr., U.S. Army." One more cannon, then, "Brian Lane, Marine," and the names and the cannon rolled on. Finally, softly, a lone bugler sounded "Taps," a final salute.

The crowd was a mixture of young, green recruits and grizzled veterans. Military jets flew low in dazzling aerial displays; politicians made speeches, and crowds lined the streets as men and women in uniform proudly marched in review, led by the flag they served.

As Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg speech, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

Welcome home, Desert Storm. Welcome home. □



STEPPIN' HIGH—Once more, flag waving and patriotism is "in" as New Yorkers celebrate returning veterans.



JOHN E. SIMON

LEGION IN THE AIR—Legionnaires, of course, were among those in celebrations nationwide.



JOHN E. SIMON

HONOR TO ALL—Every service received applause, cheers and recognition for a job well done.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

PROTESTERS demonstrate regularly at Glenwood Elementary School. It is a school not much different from hundreds of others in the Los Angeles Unified School District, except perhaps the students at Glenwood, drawn from the bedraggled Sun Valley neighborhood, are a bit poorer than others.

The protesters, like Glenwood's students, are predominantly Hispanic. Some carry placards proclaiming that Glenwood is "racist" or "KKK." The magnet of their ire is Glenwood's Sally Peterson, a kindergarten teacher who vocally opposes bilingual education.

Peterson, founder of the lobbying group, Learning English Advocates Drive (LEAD), said her detractors are "racists who are turning their backs on the children. Bilingual education is a total disservice to the kids."

Welcome to the ongoing debate over how to teach immigrant children who speak a language other than English. "Bilingual education has become a very controversial issue," said Rosalie Pedalino Porter, former head of bilingual education for the Newton, Mass., public schools and author of *Forked Tongue*, an overview of the nation's 20-year history of bilingual education. "American educators should not be calling each other 'racists,' but that's exactly what we've come to."

That opinion is especially troubling at a time when America's schools have been flooded by 2 million children with limited English proficiency. In a number of states, including Florida, New York and Texas, nearly 25 percent of the student population are non-native English speakers. More than 150 languages—from Haitian Creole through Khmer—are now the primary languages spoken by children who arrived on U.S. soil during the 1980s, a decade that saw a record-breaking number of immigrants—9 million compared to 8.8 million in the historic 1901-1910 decade. Furthermore, according to the U.S. Department of Education, Spanish-speaking homes alone account for 10 percent of the nation's students, and by 2000, that's projected to increase to 12 percent.

Aggravating the problem's severity is that today's educational strategies aren't working, at least not for His-

Robert McGarvey is a Los Angeles-based free-lance journalist.

DOUBLE

TALK

The controversy of bilingual education hinges not on whether the 2 million children with limited English proficiency should learn English, but how they should be taught.

By Robert McGarvey

panics. Their dropout rate is a staggering 36 percent, compared to 15 percent for blacks and 13 percent for whites. In another measure, while 24 percent of the overall American population ages 25 to 34 have graduated from college, the Hispanic rate is just 12 percent.

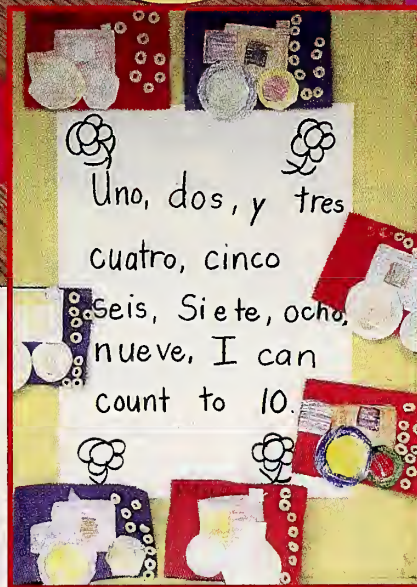
In earlier decades, Germans, Poles, Chinese and others arrived on U.S. shores not being able to speak a word of English and received little if any assistance from schools in acclimating to a new language. Those were the years when "immersion"—thrusting a child into an English-speaking classroom—was the guiding doctrine.

Porter, herself an immigrant from Italy who couldn't speak English when she arrived in America, vividly recalls her tearful childhood introduction to Newark, N.J., English-only classes during the late 1930s. "No help whatever was provided. It was painful," she said. "I had to learn English fast."

Why are today's newcomers treated differently? No educator believes that immersing a non-English-speaking child in an English-only classroom without some form of help is either

humane or effective. Amelia McKenna, an assistant superintendent in the Los Angeles Unified School District, explained: "We don't know what the dropout rate was in immersion's heyday, but it was probably high. But it wasn't noticeable then because the economy absorbed unskilled labor," she told the *New York Times*. "We're not going to be educating these children for the 21st century if we just continue what we have been doing in the past."

IT WASN'T until 1968 that Congress, during an era of intense minority activism, opened a funding spigot, the Bilingual Education Act, to make money available to school districts which asked for help in educating English-deficient pupils. Then, in 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court stiffened the ante in its landmark *Lau* ruling, which decided that non-English-speaking children were effectively barred from equal access to educational facilities and, therefore, ruled the court, schools were obliged to offer "special assistance." Neither the 1968 law nor *Lau* specified the form remedies might take, and educators at



the time saw merit in several options. Two such remedies were "structured immersion," in which students are put in English-only classes but trained teachers give individualized help, and "early-exit" crash courses in English, in which other teaching is put on hold until the child gains fluency in English.

But the Carter administration's Department of Education soon endorsed a third method, Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE), which provides English-language instruction while coursework proceeds in the student's native language.

Congress, in turn, supported TBE in its 1974 and subsequent renewals of the act. But that is the rub, said Porter. "Politicians are mandating an educational solution. Government does not tell educators how to teach math. Why is this situation different?"

Transitional Bilingual Education is where the battle lines are drawn, but just what is it? In TBE, a non-English speaking student (Spanish-speaking pupils account for more than two-thirds of the children in bilingual classes) receives an hour or two of English as a foreign language and the rest of the day

is filled with geography, history, math and other subjects taught in the child's native language. Students who do not swiftly acquire English may remain in this segregated regimen for six, nine, even 12 years. In New Jersey, Porter pointed out, a student could win a high school diploma by passing an achievement test in any of 12 languages, from Spanish through Arabic; English fluency is not required for graduation.

Bilingual education advocates offer three reasons for their support. The first, said Steven Carbo, an attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, is that TBE offers heightened opportunity for parental involvement in a child's schooling. "The success of any educational program in part is contingent on parental involvement," Carbo said. "When a child comes from a limited-English background, TBE provides a greater opportunity for the family to be involved." In other words, if Johnny takes a math problem to dad and the question is framed in a language both understand, the father can help. If, however, the question is in English and dad isn't fluent, he's lost

ENGLISH ADVOCATE — Kindergarten teacher Sally Peterson opposes bilingual education as founder of Learning English Advocate Drive.

before the child finishes asking the question.

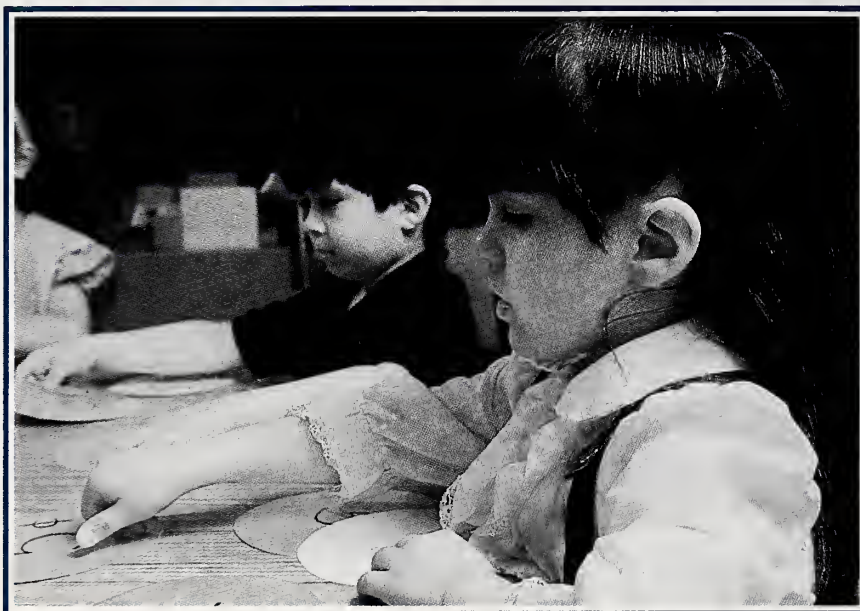
Enhanced self-esteem is a second reason, said Denise De LaRosa, education policy analyst for the National Council of La Raza, a Washington, D.C., Hispanic-American advocacy group. "When a teacher addresses a child in his or her own language, that child will feel more accepted," she said. "Many non-Anglos have been made to feel lesser and this is a key factor in why we haven't assimilated as quickly as possible."

Please turn to page 58

Barriers Of

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

MICHAEL JUSTICE/PICTURE GROUP



IMAGINE a combat situation where an artillery strike is vital to your survival, but the soldier operating the 155mm howitzer doesn't understand English. Picture yourself as an employer. The applicant facing you can neither read nor speak English fluently. Would you hire him?

These scenarios may seem far-fetched, but unfortunately they underline a growing problem within the United States. "English is the key to economic opportunity in the United States," said Gary Sammons, Chairman of the Legion's Americanism Commission. "But our government does very little to encourage young immigrants to learn English. This tends to discourage them from entering the mainstream of American culture."

The American Legion has long been aware of this problem and has adopted a resolution addressing the situation.

Res. 576, passed during the 1990 National Convention in Indianapolis, encourages legislation making English the official language for government in the United States.

Language barriers affect some regions more than others. Florida, Texas and California, where Spanish is commonly spoken, are especially aware of the problem. These states and others spend millions of dollars each year to hire bilingual teachers for their schools. The federal government has laws stating that ballots and other government documents must be printed in other languages, especially Spanish.

If the government demands that a school system hire bilingual teachers, why are children leaving school without the ability to communicate in the English language? "The problem is adult education," said sociologist Jim Boone, past Post Commander of Post 37 in McAllen, Texas. "Our teachers try to teach English to these young people, but when the student goes home,

Spanish is spoken. It's a situation of 'this is the way my father spoke, and his father before him and you will speak this way, too.' The problem is, when that child leaves school to enter the job market, he or she won't be able to communicate. You can't develop much of a career if you can't communicate."

Another problem is the government's "Transitional Bilingual Education" program. The title is misleading. As the National Americanism Commission noted in Res. 576, foreign-born young people are not being taught English, but instead receive long-term education in their native language, which may span from kindergarten through the high school years.

Citizens of Hispanic background are not the only victims. Vietnamese refugees, Chinese and other ethnic groups face similar problems. But by far, the largest segment of the American population today battling language barriers are the Spanish-speaking groups.

"Adults are afraid their children will lose sight of their ethnic heritage," Boone said. "By refusing to communicate or learn English, they are forcing their children into a situation that will not allow them to compete effectively in the job market."

Oddly enough, though based on good intentions, the federal government may share the blame for the difficulties facing immigrant Americans. "Bilingual education funded by the U.S. Department of Education tends to provide long-term instruction in a student's native tongue, while English is either ignored or secondary," Sammons said. "Programs like this encourage separatism that can set the stage for discrimination. At the same time, it costs the taxpayers in many ways."

Presently, federal law mandates a certain number of minority citizens from every labor pool must be hired by companies and institutions. Thus, if a job applicant is hired simply on the basis of ethnic background, but does not understand English, quite often that worker is ineffective in his job. Often, a non-English speaking person cannot find work because of the language barrier, and the taxpayer once again foots the bill through welfare programs.

The American Legion believes many of these problems could be overcome if English were made the official language. The Legion is not alone; 18 states have passed legislation recognizing English as the official language. □



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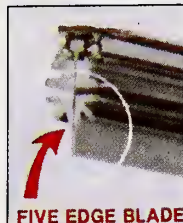
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Companion bills have been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives designating the week of Nov. 10, 1991, National Hire a Veteran Week.

West Virginia Sen. Jay Rockefeller, a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and Rep. George E. Brown Jr. of California presented the bills to bring attention to veterans' employment issues.

"As men and women leave the service, they face real challenges in starting over in a civilian career," Rockefeller said. "They deserve assistance in the transition."

Brown noted, "This legislation will draw the attention of employers to the valuable skills that veterans possess. At the same time, it will encourage employers to take advantage of existing veterans' employment programs." Such programs include tax credits to employers for hiring veterans and employer eligibility for special funds through the Job Training Partnership Act.

Legionnaires are encouraged to call their representatives and senators and support National Hire a Veteran Week, H.J. Res. 280 and S.J. Res. 157.

The House of Representatives has passed H.J. Res. 72, that would designate Dec. 7, 1991, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day." The commemorative legislation would mark the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which propelled America into World War II.

In 1989, at the 71st National Convention of The American Legion at Baltimore, Md., Legion Res. 18 called on Congress "to declare Dec. 7, 1991, the 50th anniversary of that attack, ... a day of remembrance."

"Passage of H.J. Res. 72 is a proper tribute, not just to the defenders of Pearl Harbor, but to all of this nation's military personnel," said National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco.

Nearly half a million veterans and dependents receiving compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs need to provide their Social Security numbers (SSN) to remain eligible for monthly payments.

The disclosure requirement, included in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, will permit VA to match beneficiary rolls against other agencies' files to verify eligibility.

"The law does not require that our beneficiaries have a Social Security number," said D' Wayne Gray, VA chief benefits director. "If they do not, they simply have to tell us."

Requests for SSNs have been sent to VA benefit recipients, but because some recipients use electronic deposit, some requests have been sent to financial institutions, instead of the recipients' home address. Those VA recipients who use electronic deposit should check with your local VA regional office about providing your SSN to VA. Thousands of letters are returned each year because of faulty addresses.

Beneficiaries have 60 days to respond to the requests. Those who fail to respond may face suspension or termination of VA benefits. Beneficiaries whose addresses have changed or who did not receive the request should contact their nearest VA regional office.

Legislation providing for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in compensation payments for 2.6 million service-disabled veterans and their families was approved by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Sen. Alan Cranston, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee said: "(This legislation)...is an important step toward ensuring that the value of these high-priority Department of Veterans Affairs benefits will not be eroded."

The legislation, S.775, would provide an estimated 5.3 percent COLA for compensation paid by VA to 2.2 million veterans with service-connected disabilities and 320,000 survivors of veterans who died from service-connected disabilities. Compensation would increase, for example, from \$231 to \$243 a month for 30 percent disabled veterans, and from \$1,620 to \$1,705 a month for those totally disabled. If the COLA legislation is approved, the changes would become effective Dec. 1, 1991.

Following recommendations by the Veterans Advisory Committee on environmental hazards, The Department of Veterans Affairs will propose rules granting service-connected disability for certain Vietnam veterans claiming health problems from exposure to Agent Orange. The rule change will include veterans with peripheral neuropathy, a nervous system condition that causes numbness and tingling.

At the same time, VA will propose a rule that there is no link between exposure to dioxin—a contaminant found in Agent Orange—and lung cancer. A third finding related to diabetes resulted in VA deferring action pending further study and analysis by the National Academy of Sciences, which recent legislation established as a review body for Agent Orange-related issues.

Last year VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski ruled that Vietnam Veterans with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and soft-tissue sarcoma would receive disability benefits. These diseases, along with chloracne, a skin condition, are now associated with Vietnam service or dioxin exposure. President Bush signed the legislation in February.

The committee determined that current medical evidence does not support a link between Agent Orange exposure and lung cancer, because studies failed to include smoking.

The committee also recommended that diabetes be the focus of future investigation. Current evidence does not support associating diabetes with exposure to dioxin, but a study of Air Force personnel who sprayed Agent Orange showed trends that should be analyzed.

Veterans should contact any VA regional office for information about claims procedures.

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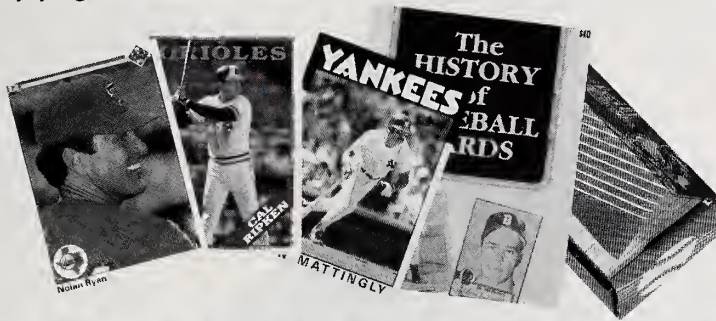
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*Source: Sports Card Trader Magazine

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Dominic D. DiFrancesco

ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER



ANY years ago, a Catholic nun drilled into my head that 'success is a journey, not a destination.' My fellow Legionnaires, I have set some major milestones for us to achieve on our 'journey of success' during the next 12 months. First and foremost, we must care for and secure legislation to assist our newest cadre of veterans, the Desert Storm troops. We must secure adequate

benefits for these young veterans as quickly and decisively as the Persian Gulf War was won, because as we all know, the nation and especially the Washington politicians tend to forget the brave deeds of veterans all too quickly. We must press the Congress to enact the new GI Bill for Desert Storm veterans while the nation still basks in the victory of the Persian Gulf War," said newly elected National Commander Dominic D. DiFrancesco at the conclusion of the 73rd National Convention in Phoenix.

"It took 20 years for our government to recognize Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder among veterans of combat," DiFrancesco told convention delegates after his election to the Legion's highest office. "We need not wait another 20 years to treat this condition. We must provide the help that is needed immediately for those who have experienced the horrors of war and the stress of family separation. Medical and rehabilitative benefits for veterans should always be legislated through a grateful Congress. But will this Congress have a short memory when it comes to our outstanding young people who recently wrote another great chapter in the annals of American military history?

"We must not forget our Family Support Network. This unique and highly successful program originated by The American Legion has done so much for the troops and their families. We cannot allow it to simply go away. Now, the network will help those service members get adjusted at home and in their jobs. Through the Family Support Network, we can convey vital information for these returning veterans.

While we work for our Desert Storm veterans, we must not lose sight of all our generations of veterans. When the decade ends, there will be about 9 million veterans older than 65. Our country, the Department of Veterans Affairs and our great organization owe a huge debt to these veterans. They served their country when it needed them. Now, many of them are down and out and they need help. The nation must fulfill its promises and responsibilities to these men and women. We Legionnaires know what was promised, and it is our job to remind the government in Washington of its responsibilities.

**"AS VETERANS,
AND ESPECIALLY
AS LEGIONNAIRES,
WE MUST NOT
FORGET WHERE WE
HAVE TRAVELED
OR THE DIRECTION
WE MUST GO."**



"The American Legion will continue to intensify our efforts to resolve the POW/MIA issue. And I mean not only the POW/MIAs unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, but in all wars. There is an apparent lack of responsiveness on the part of some government officials who are responsible for resolving the POW/MIA issue. This must stop now.

"Another milestone we must achieve is one which requires a major effort by each Department and every Legionnaire. I'm talking about The American Legion campaign for a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration. I am asking each of you to make it a top priority to see that your state legislature enacts a memorializing resolution calling on Congress to approve such an amendment.

"I ask you to join me in my quest to surpass the greatest membership The American Legion ever had. In 1946, we reached an all-time high of 3,326,556

members. I ask you to give me 3,326,557 members by year's end.

"As veterans, and especially as Legionnaires, we must not forget where we have traveled, or the direction we must go. If we stay our course, success will be ours."

For 38 years, DiFrancesco has traveled the road of Legion leadership culminating in his election, becoming the sixth Korean War veteran and the fourth Pennsylvanian to serve as National Commander. A 38-year, lifetime member of Post 594 of Middletown, Pa., DiFrancesco has served on many

Post committees and held several offices, including Post Commander. He was the Dauphin County Commander from 1976 to 1977, and was the 19th District Commander from 1977 to 1979.

From 1986 to 1987, DiFrancesco served as the Department of Pennsylvania Commander. On a national level, DiFrancesco has served as Chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, Chairman of the Legislative Commission, member of the National Security Council, member of the National Public Relations Commission, four years as Pennsylvania's Alternate National Executive Committeeman, two years as National Executive Committeeman, and as a member of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

"Dom has experience in almost every Legion area, on every level of Legion leadership," one longtime associate of DiFrancesco said. "Dom has given his all to the Legion. His talents and experience will serve the Legion and the country well."

Before joining the Legion, DiFrancesco served three years as a U.S. Navy communications technician. "My father handed me my Legion card the day I returned home after my discharge," DiFrancesco recalled. "My hometown of Steeltown, Pa., was always an American Legion town, and I grew up knowing about the Legion's community involvement."

DiFrancesco married Beverly Jane Condran on Sept. 21,



'We must secure adequate benefits for Operation Desert Storm veterans as quickly and decisively as the war was won.'

1956. They have four children and eight grandchildren: daughter Debra Lynn, with grandchildren Michael and Amanda Marie; daughter Toni Ann, with grandson Zachary; son Anthony Ronald, with grandchildren Angela Marie, Anthony II and Jamie Lynn; and son Dominic II, with grandchildren Dominic III and Elizabeth Erin.

The DiFrancesco family grew up as an American Legion family and continues that tradition. DiFrancesco's wife, daughters and granddaughters belong to The American Legion Auxiliary. DiFrancesco's sons attended Keystone Boys State and the Pennsylvania Legion State Police Youth Week. Anthony was chosen outstanding cadet at the State Police Week, and Dominic II was mayor of his city at Keystone Boys State. Anthony is a Beirut-Grenada era veteran and member of Post 594, Middletown, Pa.

DiFrancesco worked for 38 years as a federal government employee and retired February 1988 as a Plans and Resource Specialist. Before becoming National Commander, he provided consulting services to political campaigns in Pennsylvania.

Before becoming heavily involved in Legion work, DiFrancesco was a golfer and fisherman and plans to resume those activities after his year as National Commander. In addition to his Legion positions, DiFrancesco served on

several veteran-related committees, including the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, the Pennsylvania War Memorial Commission, and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE asked DiFrancesco what he expects to accomplish as he travels on his "journey of success."

Q. What are your plans concerning benefits for Desert Storm veterans?

A. Every Legionnaire and every veteran from World War I to Panama knows how quickly the nation's attention turns away from the veteran. While the nation is basking in the Persian Gulf War victory, we must urge Congress to pass a comprehensive and complete package of benefits for these veterans. While the nation is full of appreciation for Operation Desert Storm troops, we must turn our appreciation into tangible benefits. The Legion wrote and supported the original GI Bill of Rights during World War II. That GI Bill, and subsequent others, have proved to be a good deal for veterans and, more importantly, for the nation. Veterans who take advantage of education benefits return the cost of the program many times over to the federal treasury. There is no question about the medical and rehabilitative benefits wartime veterans should have. Also, with the Department of Defense scheduled to downsize the military by 500,000 people in the next four to five years, job placement and training must be a priority.

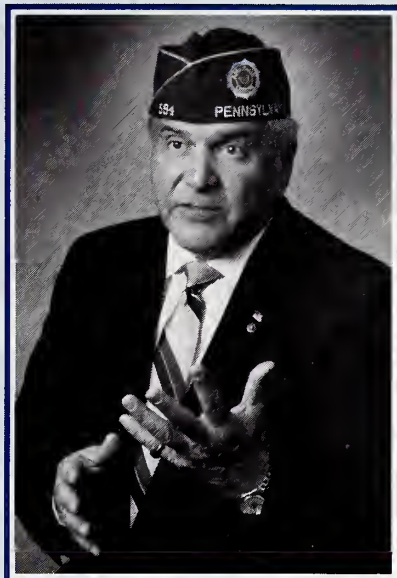
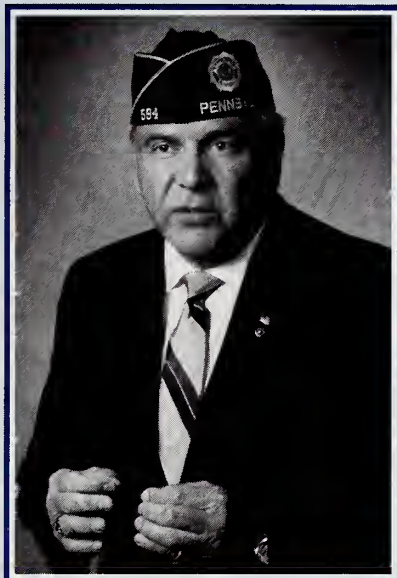
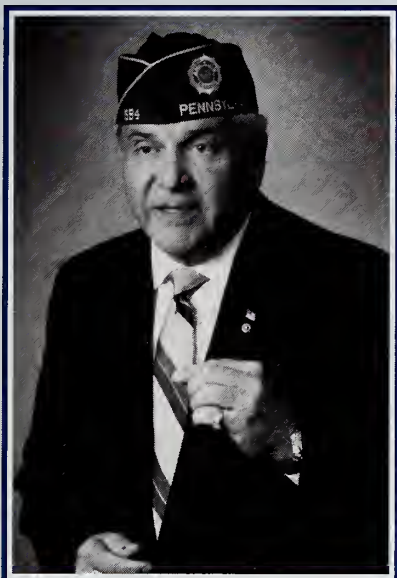
It should be easy to have Congress approve such benefits, but with budget constraints, and with Congress having trouble even meeting traditional obligations, passage of this new GI Bill of Rights will be a hard battle. When I visited Saudi Arabia last year, I found the troops ready and willing to do their jobs. The quick and decisive victory is evidence of their commitment. Now, the government must show its commitment to these troops by approving a new Servicemember's Readjustment Act, as proposed by The American Legion.

Q. What must the Legion do to secure medical care for aging veterans?

A. When the decade ends, there will be more than 10 million veterans older than 65. VA and the Legion have a responsibility to those veterans. They served their country in its time of need, and now they are in need. We are obligated to help them. Several Departments, such as the Department of Minnesota, have worked with geriatric care programs. The Legion, on the Department and National levels, will continue such assistance. VA must fulfill its responsibility to aging veterans and plan for the future. We know that many of these 10 million veterans will have no other source of medical care. We know what job must be done, and as Legionnaires, it's our responsibility to see that it gets done. VA medical care, whether geriatric or otherwise, is ultimately less expensive than health care provided by other federal programs. Good VA care is a sound investment. Slipshod care and underfunding will only cost us more in the long run—in lives and money.

Q. Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991, but Agent Orange experts say the legislation falls far short of the needs of Vietnam veterans exposed to the herbicide. What is the Legion's next step?

A. The Legion will monitor the compensation awarded to veterans through the Agent Orange Act of 1991. And



VA must fulfill its responsibility to aging veterans and plan for the future.

During my year as National Commander, protecting the flag will be a priority.

The health of some Vietnam veterans has been sacrificed as the government delays . . .

through further legislation, we will attempt to have more illnesses service-connected to Agent Orange exposure. The Agent Orange Act of 1991 will not suffice. Too many ailments related to Agent Orange exposure were not included in the legislation. The health of some Vietnam veterans has been imperiled as the government delays in recognizing the worst problems.

The act also required VA to contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review data on Agent Orange. Based on the academy's findings, VA Secretary Derwinski will make future recommendations about service-connected disability for Agent Orange exposure. That, in itself, is a small, positive step. But any findings of the academy will be viewed by the Legion with a very critical eye, because the NAS has previously given credence to the Centers for Disease Control's research methods that other scientific groups have dismissed.

The Legion's fight for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange will not end with the Agent Orange Act of 1991. The Legion will be sure the National Academy of Sciences performs its duties in a timely fashion. And we will continue to pursue our lawsuit on behalf of Agent Orange victims.

Q. As the sixth Korean War veteran to be elected National Commander, what plans do you have to bring greater recognition to the Korean War and its veterans?

A. I want to urge all Legionnaires to support the Korean War Memorial. While the Korean War is often called the "forgotten war," its veterans are not forgotten by the Legion. I also want to urge Korean War veterans to proudly participate in community and Legion activities.

Additionally, we must not forget the more than 8,000 American servicemen still unaccounted for from the Korean War. More than 300 of them are known to have been prisoners of war. We need to keep encouraging the U.S. govern-

ment to obtain a full accounting for them.

Q. Do you believe the U.S. government is making adequate progress on the POW/MIA issue?

A. Gaining the release of any U.S. prisoners still held in foreign lands should receive utmost priority from the U.S. government. Although President Bush has made strong commitments in this vital area, including a pledge to take decisive action if live American POWs can be located, government efforts need to be better coordinated and intensified for POW/MIAs from all wars. Regarding Vietnam, our government needs to take decisive action in handling the investigation of live sightings and other reports on POWs and MIAs. The veil of secrecy that surrounds these cases is not necessary. It leads to a perception of deception in the minds of the American people. The U.S. government should send a strong signal to the families and to the nation that an open and honest effort is being made to investigate live sightings and account for all of those who are missing.

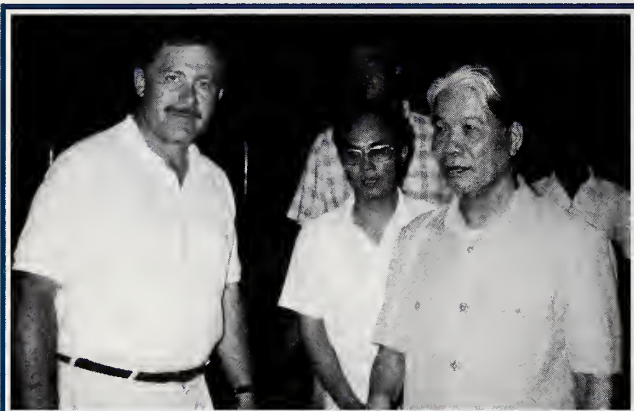
Q. Will the Legion pursue any new strategies in its quest for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration?

A. During my year as National Commander, protecting the flag will be a priority. All Legionnaires should write their representatives in Washington, D.C., and their state legislators to let them know flag protection is a top priority. The Legion has already witnessed several successes in securing memorializing resolutions in favor of a constitutional amendment. If Legionnaires keep the pressure up, Congress will be forced to re-address the issue.

Q. For the past few years, the Legion has exceeded membership goals. What is your forecast for this year and

Please turn to page 66

Legion Official Travels To Vietnam For MIA Records



Washington Office Executive Director John F. Sommer (left) meets Vietnam's Secretary General Do Muoi in the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam.

AN AMERICAN Legion official who traveled to Southeast Asia this past summer received more information about specific POW/MIA cases from the Vietnamese government than from the U.S. government.

Hanoi officials provided information about the cases of 12 U.S. MIAs who died in country or in captivity. "Our own government had not provided this information until we submitted the Vietnamese input and requested verification," said John F. Sommer, executive director of the Legion's Washington Office. "The U.S. government's veil of secrecy surrounding its findings in POW/MIA cases is both unnecessary and self-defeating. There is a growing perception among Americans that there is deception by those who are handling U.S. POW/MIA investigations."

The Defense Intelligence

Agency (DIA), which is responsible for the U.S. government's investigation into POW/MIAs, has downplayed reports of live sightings and has withheld information about POW/MIAs.

Sommer was among a nine-member group that traveled to Southeast Asia from June 30 to July 11 as a POW/MIA fact-finding delegation. The U.S. group became the first foreign delegation to visit Hanoi following the Seventh Party Congress which met in late June. The group spent a week in Vietnam and several days in Thailand. One of the delegation's goals was to explore the feasibility of establishing an independent office composed of veterans' organizations in Vietnam to provide assistance in the search for U.S. POW/MIAs and remains of servicemen listed as missing.

In addition to Sommer, the delegation included Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois; the administrative assistant to

Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts; a representative of Sen. Frank H. Murkowski of Alaska; representatives from two other veterans' organizations, and an official of the International Center for Development Policy. The group was briefed on the progress of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center and the office established in Hanoi to coordinate U.S. investigations into live sightings and site excavations.

The delegation also inspected a crash site near Bac Son, 55 kilometers north of Hanoi, and Sommer interviewed the local people's committee chairman, who provided information on the crash. However, the delegation did not visit the "Hanoi Hilton" or other locations where American POWs were held during the war. "We learned a great deal about how the Vietnamese investigate crash sites and other burial sites," said Sommer. "However, the Vietnamese claim they are holding no live Americans. That remains to be seen."

"Mistrust on both sides has seemed to make progress painfully slow," Sommer said. "We got a strong message that the MIA issue was not a political issue. We heard that party line from everybody we talked to. Vietnam claimed to be interested in resolving the MIA issue on humanitarian, not political, grounds. Yet, the U.S. economic embargo on Vietnam always entered into conversations."

During the trip, the delegation met with several high-ranking Vietnamese officials, including outgoing Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, who pledged continued cooperation in resolving the fate of missing U.S. servicemen. The delegation also

met with Assistant Foreign Minister Dang Nghiem Bai and Secretary General Do Muoi. As members of the delegation toured the country, they were accompanied by two officials from the Foreign Ministry, but according to Sommer, he was able to freely talk with Vietnamese civilians.

National attention has been focused on the POW/MIA issue since the February resignation of Col. Millard A. Peck from his position as DIA's Chief of the Special Office for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Peck resigned, alleging a government cover-up of POW/MIA information. Further piquing national interest, a series of photographs of alleged POWs still held in Southeast Asia were published this summer in newspapers nationwide.

Since the delegation's trip, there have been some developments which should begin to answer some of the questions POW/MIA families and the nation have been asking. In the final hours before the Aug. 2 recess, the Senate passed Senate Res. 82, which established a select committee to investigate issues relating to missing U.S. servicemen from the nation's wars. The committee will be chaired by Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts and will consist of 12 members, six from each political party. The committee, which will remain in effect until the close of the 102nd Congress, is authorized to make investigations into any matter pertaining to POW/MIAs, to hold hearings, and to require the attendance of witnesses and the full disclosure of POW/MIA-related documents. According to Legion sources, the hearings will most likely begin this fall.

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America? The shortage of qualified practitioners in these four trades is creating inflated prices and big profits for those few who have the skills to take on these kinds of work.

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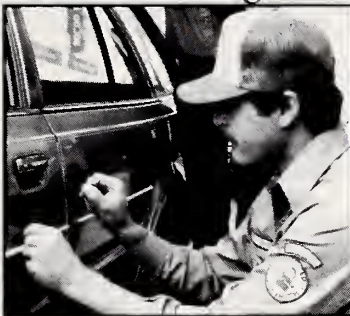
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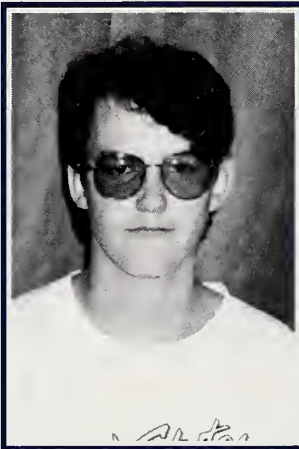
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Miss., Ariz. Youths Win Air Rifle Contest



Everett Miskelly

SHARP eyes and pinpoint accuracy earned Everett "Trent" Miskelly, 16, of West Point, Miss., and Richard L. Wilson, 17, of Tempe, Ariz., championships in the first American Legion National Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament.

Twenty competitors earned invitations to the NRA-sanctioned tournament in Colorado Springs, Colo., after qualification rounds involving more than 300 participants from 160 Legion Junior Shooting Clubs nationwide. Championship competitors shot shoulder to shoulder in the Precision and Sporter divisions, in which shooters scored points in prone, standing and kneeling positions.

Miskelly won the Precision division by setting three national records on the first day of competition, scoring

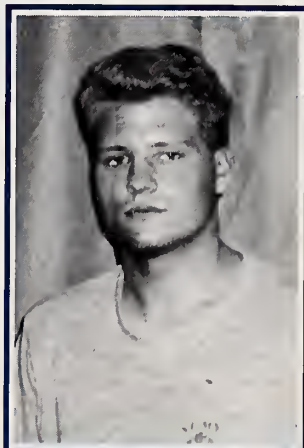
2245 out of a possible 2400 points. Wilson won the Sporter division with a 2201 score.

Second place in the Precision competition was won by Marisol Contreras, 18, of San Antonio, Texas. Latoya E. Jones, 16, of Lynchburg, Va., placed third.

Morris L. Herring, 16, of Mesquite, Texas, placed second in the Sporter competition. Eddie L. Cluck, 16, of Mesquite, Texas, took third.

Then-National Commander Robert S. Turner presented trophies and medals to the winners.

The two-day championship, conducted at the U.S. Olympic Training Facility, consisted of 120 shots fired each day from 10 meters with .177-caliber air rifles. The final day of competition included a shoot-off for the top five shooters in each category. The Legion provided travel grants, housing and meal allowances to participants during the tournament. The national competition is the most recent addition to The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Programs, allowing 14 to 18 year olds to learn and improve shooting skills.



Richard L. Wilson



BROTHERLY MEMBERSHIP—Albert and Raymond Kadolph, brothers from Eldora, Iowa, received special certificates from Post 182 of Eldora for their years of membership. Albert, 93, has been a member for 73 years, and Raymond, 96, is a 68-year member. The Kadolph brothers may be the only surviving brothers who served in World War I. From left, Post 182 Commander Gene Kies; Albert Kadolph; Gene Foster, Post 182 Service Officer; and Raymond Kadolph.

Legion Newspaper Debuts

THE American Legion Dispatch hit the streets Aug. 8, offering subscriptions to those interested in current information about Legion programs and mandates.

The Dispatch publishes news and information previously provided by ACT, Advance, National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin, American Legion News Service Legislative Bulletin and the Economic Guardian, all of which have been discontinued.

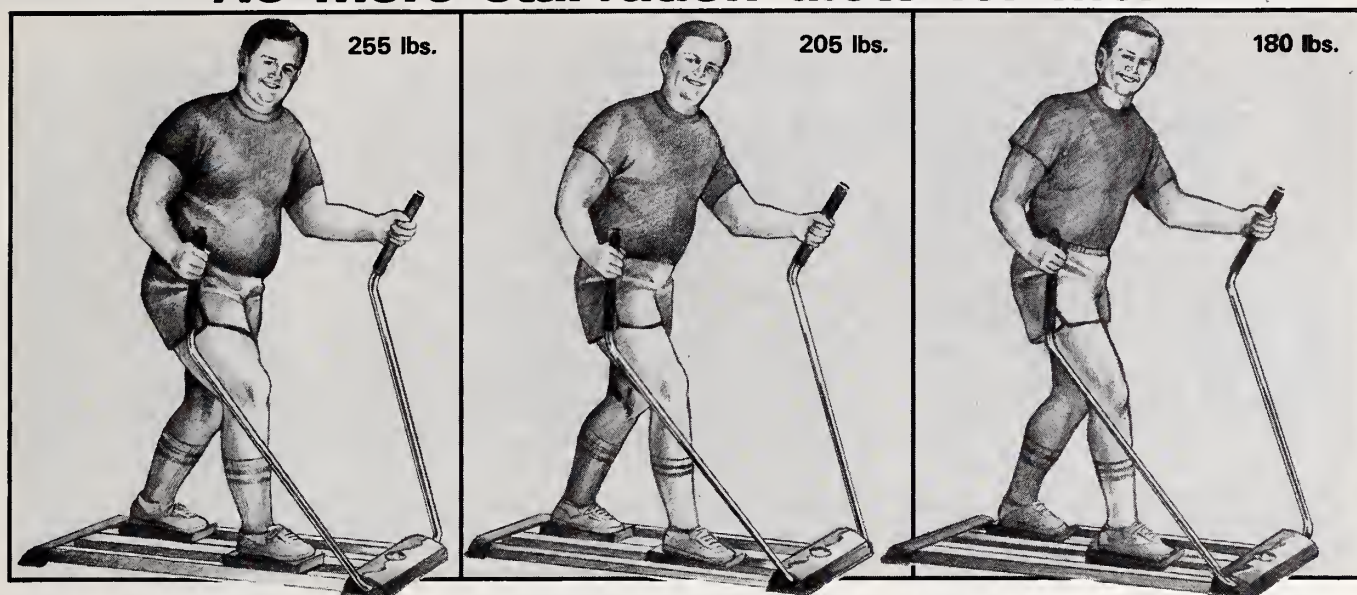
"We're excited about this new challenge and realize we have some big shoes to fill," said Dispatch editor Joe Stuteville. "We plan to provide up-to-date coverage of current events that affect vet-

erans, including legislative and VA health-care issues, along with the nation's interests and Legion mandates."

The Dispatch is published biweekly on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, with daily issues during National Conventions. Copies are mailed to National officers, Past National Commanders, Chairmen of National and Department commissions and committees, Department Commanders, Adjutants and Service Officers, Post Adjutants and select members of the Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

Others who want to receive The Dispatch should write to: The Dispatch, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Subscriptions cost \$15 annually for 22 issues.

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What you see above is an illustration of actual footage you've seen of Keith on TV showing his dramatic 75 pound weight loss. How did he do it? Simple! "I lowered my caloric intake by reducing fat and sugar and glided away the pounds on my Easy Glider while watching football!"

*Keith Allen**

You've starved yourself on a 1000 calorie a day diet, suffered brutal hunger pangs...and all you've lost is the will to go through it all for one more day.

Well, cheer up! Now there's a better way to take off that extra weight. And all it takes is just a little determination...and Easy Glider!

The secret is Easy Glider—the exercise that can help you lose 10...20...even 75 pounds—while watching TV!

You can lose weight on your own schedule...even while listening to the stereo or watching TV! Just make up your mind to lower your caloric intake by eating fewer fats and sugars. And then, step on the glider pads, set the tension control for desired resistance, and you're off on the road to fitness and a slim, toned body.

Better than bikes...racquetball...even jogging!

An aerobic workout on Easy Glider is one of the most efficient ways to burn up calories and achieve total fitness. It simulates cross-country skiing, which some experts tell us is the world's #1 fitness exercise. Easy Glider's continuous motion maintains your aerobic heart rate unlike racquetball's start and stop workout.

Exercise bikes focus on the lower body while Easy Glider works *all* the major muscle groups, including arms, legs, shoulders, buttocks and even your stomach. It's smooth, fluid, gliding action makes it far less stressful on the body than jogging. This one simple exercise strengthens the heart, tones the muscles, burns calories and improves stamina.

Easy Glider gives YOU the workout...not your wallet!

Best of all, you can lose weight...without paying the high price! Easy Glider is priced at an amazing \$59.85...a real bargain when you consider that other ski simulators cost as much as \$500. How can we do it? Quite simply, Easy Glider is a model of efficiency. Thousands of hours were spent on its design and engineering. The roll formed steel frame will take years of use. The result: a superior product at a fraction of the price!

Try it for 60 days at no risk—and experience the weight loss for yourself!

Remember...Keith Allen lost an amazing 75 pounds by watching what he ate and gliding away the pounds on his Easy Glider. Now it's your turn!

You risk *nothing* when you order. As a credit card customer, your credit card will be billed in 3 easy payments of just \$19.95 each. We won't bill your final payment until you've tried Easy Glider for 60 days. If you don't see weight and fitness benefits, you can return it within 60 days for a full refund (minus shipping and handling)—no questions asked. Plus, Easy Glider is covered by a 1 year limited warranty on parts.

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VETNET ADDS TOPICTALK

HAVE a hobby tip? Looking for a special item to complete a collection? Want to meet others with similar interests?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, VetNet has a new service for you: TopicTalk.

Effective Oct. 1, VetNet is adding 100 sport, hobby and leisure activity voice bulletin boards. A list of VetNet's 100 new TopicTalks accompanies this article.

TopicTalk is more like a phone party line or local radio station's trading post, except that it's nationwide. Callers can leave messages, tips, hints, or just about any comments related to the topic. Callers can also listen to others who have the same interests and perhaps pick up some new ideas.

TopicTalk may be reached by calling 1-900-773-8387 and entering the appropriate VetNet number when asked. VetNet welcomes your suggestions for additional topics or uses of the system.

MailCall Works All Year

MailCall is one of VetNet's most used features because it lets veterans talk with their buddies throughout the

year, not just at reunion time. One call to VetNet can be heard by hundreds of others, a tremendous cost savings.

MailCall follows the coordinator announcement and can be used to hear messages from others or to leave messages for others to hear. Each outfit has its own unique MailCall.

VetNet Enrollment Growing

VetNet has identified more than 10,000 reunion groups and these form the basis of the system. New groups are being added daily. Enrollment is free but must be done on official VetNet forms. There are no annual fees and no need to re-enroll each year.

Messages from individuals are encouraged but no unauthorized commercial use of VetNet is allowed. Profanity and other inappropriate commentary is prohibited.

Calls cost \$1 per minute, with proceeds helping to support Legion programs. A sample VetNet program can be heard by calling 1-900-773-8387 and when asked, entering 1-2-3-4-5 as the 5-digit VetNet number.

VetNet Can Help Reunion Planning

If you are planning a reunion and need ideas or assistance with hotel, food and travel planning, call VetNet. Our customer service representatives are glad to assist you.

A free booklet, *Planning a Military Reunion*, is available on request to coordinators who have enrolled with VetNet and have recorded their message on the VetNet bulletin board. Write VetNet, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

HOW TO USE VETNET

To find out information on a particular group, dial

1-900-773-8387.

VetNet will tell you the price of the call and give you basic instructions. After the greeting you will be asked to enter the 5-digit VetNet group number published after the unit's name in this magazine. You will then hear a message from the reunion coordinator of the group you selected.

If you don't know a group's VetNet number, call

1-800-348-8387

and VetNet Directory Assistance will help you.

VETNET

NO. TOPIC TALK

22400	Aerobics
22401	Antique Autos
22402	Antiques
22403	Archery
22404	Astronomy
22405	Ballroom Dancing
22406	Baseball
22407	Baseball/Sports Cards
22408	Basketball
22409	Beer Can Collecting
22410	Bicycling

22411	Bingo
22412	Bird Watching
22413	Boating
22414	Body Building
22415	Bowling
22416	Boxing
22417	Bridge
22418	Camping
22419	Canoeing
22420	Car Racing
22421	Ceramics
22422	Chess
22423	Coin Collecting
22424	Comic Book Collecting
22425	Computers
22426	Cooking
22427	Crochet
22428	Doll Collecting
22429	Dominoes
22430	Environmental
22431	Fishing
22432	Flea Markets
22433	Football
22435	Gardening
22436	Genealogy
22437	Golf
22438	Gun Collecting
22439	Gymnastics
22440	Ham Radio
22441	Hiking
22442	Hockey
22443	Home Improvements
22444	Horse Racing
22445	Horseback Riding
22446	Horseshoes
22447	Hot Air Balloons
22448	Hunting
22449	Ice Skating
22450	Indian Artifacts
22451	Jewelry Making
22452	Jogging
22454	Leather Craft
22455	Magic
22434	Miniatures
22456	Model Ships
22457	Motocross
22458	Mountain Climbing
22459	Musical Instruments
22460	Needlepoint
22462	Painting
22463	Photography
22465	Pottery
22466	Quilting
22467	Racquetball
22468	Railroading
22470	Rock Collecting
22471	Roller Skating
22472	Rugby
22473	Running
22474	Sailing
22475	Scuba Diving
22476	Sewing
22477	Singing
22489	Skeet Shooting
22478	Skydiving

22479 Snow Skiing
22480 Soccer
22481 Softball
22482 Square Dancing
22483 Stained Glass
22484 Stamp Collecting
22485 Steam Engines
22486 Swimming
22487 Taxidermy
22488 Tennis
22490 Tropical Fish
22491 Video Film Making
22492 Volleyball
22453 War Memorabilia, Civil
22469 War Memorabilia, Korea
22493 War Memorabilia, Vietnam
22461 War Memorabilia, WWI
22464 War Memorabilia, WWII
22494 Water Skiing
22495 Weightlifting
22496 Wine Making
22497 Wood Carving
22498 Woodworking
22499 Wrestling

OUTFIT REUNIONS

To obtain VetNet enrollment forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VetNet, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Unit names are published only one time per unit per year, but you can obtain information on units at any time by calling VetNet Directory Assistance, 1-800-348-8387.

Army

17th Inf. Rgt. (Midwest) 15594
1st Brgd, 8th Div, D Co. (Germany, 1957-59) 22008
1st Div. Officers 15695
2nd Bn., 34th Arm'd (Vietnam) 15539
303rd Inf, 97th Rgt, B Co 21542
36th Engr. Rgt. (C) (WWII) 16469
37th Inf. Div. Vets Assn., Dixie Chapter 22190
387th Inf. Rgt., 97th Div., F Co. 20106
400th AFA Bn. 15475
413th Signal Avn. Co. (Sp) (1942-43) 22175
445th AAA AW Vets Assn. 15279
48th Ord. MM Co. (WWII) 22123
507th QM Car Co. 15456
550TH AAA Bn., 3rd Army 22281
561st FA Bn. 16587
579th Signal Air Warn. Bn. 14124
604th Ord. Bn. (WWII) 22186
650th Topo Engr. Bn. 22266
865th Gun Bn. AW 21610
9th Rgt., 2nd Inf. Div., B Co. 20025
Central Command Japan (1950-52) 22270

Navy

50th NCB 17357
7th & 36th Special Seabees 22161
8th Spec. CB (Aleutians) 17394
Ex-Japanese BB Nagato (Operation Crossroads) 22093
GCA Personnel 22127
PBM Mariner/P5M Marlin Assn. 21625
USN Armed Guard USAT George Washington 22202
USS Alhena AK-26/AKA-9 17344
USS Audrain APA-59 17812
USS Augusta CA-31 18496
USS Briscoe APA-65 17878
USS Elokomin AO-55 17467
USS Eversole DE-404 17919
USS Guest DD-472 18197

USS Hank DD-702 18155
USS Hermitage LSD-34 21218
USS Herndon DD-638 18341
USS J. Fred Talbot DD-156 18672
USS Kanawha AO-1 17893
USS Kearsarge CVA-33, IC/EM ratings 14601
USS LCI (L)(R)(G)(FF) #1 thru #1085 21615
USS Lloyd Thomas DD-764 18419
USS LSI-495 (L) 21977
USS LST-461 17976
USS Point Cruz CVE-119 22101
USS Southard DMS-10 17728
USS Storm King APA-171 21963
USS Tucson CL-98 14448
USS Washington BB-56 14533
VX-3, HU-1, HU-2 (Including Descendant Sqs.) 18572

Air Force

3215th Drone Sq, Patrick AFB (1956-58) 22163

Army Air Forces

161st Tactical Recon Sq, 9th AF 21622
46th Serv. Grp. 15071
479th Service Sq. 21975
57th Bomb Wing Assn. (WWII) 16757
66th Serv. Sq., 5th AF (WWII) 15098
Kingman Army Air Field, Kingman, AZ - 16957
Pilot Class 43-D Assn. 16822

Marines

11th Engr. Bn. (Baltimore's Own 1950) 22276
1st Marine Raider Bn. 17154
3rd Bn. 7th MarDiv. H&S,I,K,L,M Cos. (Vietnam) 17179
3rd Bn., 5th Marines (1960) 21618
451st Ftr. Sq. (Korea) 22063
Motor Trans. H&S Co. 1-9 (1962-63) 22135
VMF (N) 542, MAG-13 (1950-52) 22071
VMF-314 22119
VMF-324 22155

Coast Guard

Chelsea Barracks, N.Y. (WWII) 21626
USCG 2(83304) Flotilla 1, (1944) 21617
USS LST-69 17057

Miscellaneous

Korean Veterans 21996
Midway Battle Reunion 22226
PB4Y1/PB4Y2 Liberator & Privateer Sqs. 21892

LET'S GET TOGETHER

This column is for notices of proposed reunions. Notices should be submitted on official forms that can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Let's Get Together, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Notices are published only one time per unit per year. No notices are published in November, the Convention issue.

Army

107th Station Hosp. 22260
110th I.T.B., C Co. (Camp Maxie, TX) 22204
112th Trns Trk Bn HQ Co 22120
112th Trns Trk Bn HQ Co. (1950-53) 22116
119th Assault Helicopter Co. 22114
125th ATC 22259
1468th Engr Maint, 9th Army (WWII) 22240
14th Engr Bn. (Quang Tri, Vietnam) 22229

1884th Engr Avn Bn. 22201
1st Aviation Bde. (Vietnam) 22241
1st Cav. Div, 1/50th Inf. Co. D (1967-68) 22067
1st Med Bn., 1st Inf. Div. (1961-64) 22279
2108th QM Trk. Co. (WWII) 22251
23rd Inf. Div, 35th Rgt. Co. G (Korea) 22257
25th Inf. Div, 35th UPS HQ(Korea) 22256
267th Signal (C) Co. 22062
26th Signal Americal 22157
27th Inf. Div., 105th Bn., Co. D (Saipan, 1944) 22271
27th Ord Co. 22153
285th Ord (HAM) Co. (1953-55) 21451
298th Combat Engr. Co. 22231
2nd Cav Recon Sq (WWII) 22074
304th Signal Bn. 22195
3448TH Ord. Co., 42nd Div., 3rd Army (WWII) 20905
374th Harbor Craft 22203
37th Inf. Trng. Bn., Co. A (Camp Croft, SC 1944-45) 22272
39th Combat Engr (Vietnam) 22094
4th Missile Bn, 28th Arty 22133
504th MP Bn, Co. B (1971-72) 22106
506th Engr Bn 22118
542nd AAA AW Bn, Btry A 21447
547th Field Ord. Maint. Co.(1951-53) 22252
54th Inf. Trng. Bn, 5th Army Div, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 22131
551st FA Bn, HQ Co. 22219
554th Engr. Bn. (1965-67) 22253
555th FA Bn. 22075
56th Amph. Tr. Bn. 22223
577th Engr. Bn, Co. B 22211
592nd Engr Shore Rgt (Korea) 22129
59th Engr. Land Clearing 22183
5th Ord. MM Co. 22051
601st Ord. Bn, Co C 22199
619th Ord. Ammo. Bn. 22280
626th QM Refrig, Mobile (Neumberg, Germany/1945-49) 22125
627th QM Refr. Co (1952-53) 22169
630th Engr Light Equip. Co 22078
654th Tank Destroyer Bn 22141
66th Armor, Co D (Fort Campbell, KY) 22095
751st MP Bn. Co. B 22187
788th AWAAA 22121
7th Div, 40th Signal Bn. Co B (Germany, 1952-55) 22079
805th Trans. Bn 22237
8167th Hosp. (Japan, 1951) 22264
8240th Special Forces 22278
926th Engr. Avn. Rgt. 22227
HQ X Corps-Korea (1950-53) 21455
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This year, as America marks the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the first coin in history dedicated to the Heroes of Pearl Harbor was officially issued by the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a key battlefield of World War II in the Pacific. Dominated

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PAPER CHASE

Continued from page 29

Keep everything else in your home security chest.

Your Home Papers. When you sell your home, you'll pay taxes on the difference between the purchase and sale price. Two things can save you tax dollars:

- If you're 55 or older, you get a one-time tax break of \$125,000 on the gain.
- Whatever you spent on capital improvements is added to the purchase price—reducing your tax bill.

You must keep records on every capital improvement made to the house. The rule is that capital improvements add to the value of your home, prolong its life or adapt it to new uses. Painting a room isn't a capital improvement, but adding a new roof, a furnace, or installing a new lighting fixture is.

Your Fail-Safe Papers. Because nothing ever goes smoothly in life, you need:

- An inventory of all you own, in case of fire or theft.
- A "doomsday list" of instructions and telephone numbers in case you die.

The inventory can be done with pen and paper. Go from room to room, listing everything. Be specific about when and where things were bought, and how much they cost. Those receipts for major purchases that you've saved will help you do the list—and help convince the insurance company if there is a claim.

Even better, photograph or videotape everything. The insurance company is less likely to quibble if you also have photographs of everything of value: jewelry, silverware, fur coat, stamp collections, and antiques.

Keep one copy of the inventory in your home security chest, and another in your bank box.

The doomsday list should tell where to find your will, life insurance policy, and cemetery deed. It should list the name and phone number of your attorney and your executor. It should tell where your other papers are kept, including the number and location of your bank box. Finally, it should include any special instructions you might have for your funeral.

Your lawyer should have a copy of your doomsday list. So should one or more adult children, or a close relative, or a neighbor. That's one paper you never want to go astray. ☐

Did You Make This Mistake In Writing Your Will?.....

Did you know that writing a Will may be one of the biggest mistakes we can make?

It's true!

A Will doesn't protect our loved ones against paying huge fees to lawyers, executors and courts for even the smallest estate. Probate can slice up to 10% or so from an estate and take months or years for final settlement.

In fact, the only thing worse than having just a Will is the nightmare that's created when you have no Will at all.

Because then the State steps in to decide who gets our assets -- our bank account, home, car, valuables, other possessions. Money we've worked so hard to earn is gobbled-up by court and legal fees before our heirs ever get one penny.

What can the average wage earner do to avoid the financial headaches of a Will? Plenty.

Today, under current laws anyone can eliminate costly legal and court fees with a little-known, simple legal paper called a Living Trust. And you don't have to be rich to enjoy its benefits.

A Living Trust has been praised by our nation's leading financial planners, and reported in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Money Magazine*, *Business Week* and others because:

- It eliminates the costly and lengthy probate process. The estate goes directly to your heirs without going through the courts.
- It eliminates the need for an attorney and legal fees that cut your estate. Does away with all court costs, too.
- It gives you complete control of your estate to make sure that all your wishes are carried out.
- A Living Trust is revocable, which means that you can change your mind at any time about who is going to receive your assets.
- It gives you the right in most cases to name yourself as a trustee, and your spouse or someone else as a co-trustee. Plus the right to change trustees at any time.
- If you own out of state real estate, like a vacation house or cabin, you can save a bundle by avoiding the need for probate in a second state.

- Unlike a Will where your finances and everything you own is a matter of public record for anyone to see, a Living Trust is secret.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that it takes two years to complete the average probate in California. The article also stated that since a Living Trust is much faster, cheaper, and more private than settling a Will, there are many advantages to using a Living Trust instead of just a Will.

And *Business Week* reported that many people are using a Living Trust instead of a Will to reduce the possibility of heirs fighting over your estate.

You must never forget that a Will must be probated and the fees for the probate lawyer and executor -- not including court fees-- range from 6% to 10% and are paid before any of your heirs receive their inheritance. That can take a big chunk out of even the smallest estate when attorneys charge anywhere from \$60.00 to \$150.00 an hour or more!

Look at what happened to the modest estate of Simon Morris:

- The Will of Simon Morris, a Florida resident, left \$77,500 in cash to his widow. Before she could receive it, the probate process grabbed \$9,375.
- Mr. Ken Bradley left \$144,567 directly to his surviving spouse. The probate "fees" of \$8,500 were appealed by the widow. The court ordered a refund of \$7,750 with interest.
- R.L. Roberstone probably thought his Will would get his \$162,114 safely to his heirs. As they found out probate fees amounted to \$6,484.59.

The pity of it all is that these people could have avoided having large bites taken out of their hard-earned property by using a Living Trust. They could have passed every cent to their loved ones without squandering money on probate.

If you think a Living Trust is only for millionaires -- you couldn't be more wrong. Whether you earn \$25,000 or \$100,000 a year -- and whether your assets are huge or small -- a Living Trust will save you money. In fact ... on a percentage basis Living Trusts save more on small estates than large ones!

And you can save even more because

we have shown hundreds of thousands of people just like you how to do it. It's simple.

The DSA Living Trust Kit was developed after much research with a team of legal scholars and practicing attorneys. It explains in easy-to-understand language how to set up your own Living Trust.

Instructions and guidelines are written in simple English. Illustrated step-by-step forms show you how to custom-tailor a legal trust to meet your special personal needs.

- Titles to your real estate, automobiles, boats, stocks, etc. are all safeguarded in your Trust.

Though DSA's exclusive Living Trust Kit will save you a small fortune -- and save your loved ones thousands of dollars later on -- we have kept the price especially low to enable everyone to benefit from it. Less than the cost of a good dinner out. We are so certain that you will find it invaluable that we insist you examine it on a 90-Day No-Risk Guarantee. It's easy to get your Living Trust Kit. All you have to do is print your name and address and the words, "Living Trust" on a plain piece of paper. Send it along with your check or money order in the amount of \$19.95 plus \$2 handling or charge to your VISA/Mastercard by including account number and expiration date to: DSA Financial Publishing Corp., Dept. W85, 708 - 12th Street N.W., Canton, Ohio 44703. For even faster service, VISA/Mastercard or COD, call toll free 1-800-321-0888, Ext. W85.

Send for your Living Trust Kit within the next 15 days and you'll also get a Free Bonus Report on estate planning. The supplies of this very unique report are limited so you must act now.

Want to save even more? Do a favor for a close relative or friend and order a second Kit at a \$10 savings. That's 2 for only \$31.95. Use your Kit for 90 risk-free days. Show it to your lawyer. If you are not 100% convinced it's everything you expected -- don't keep it. Simply tear off the cover and send half of it back. You will receive a full refund. Fair enough?

A Living Trust is too important to put off another day. Order by phone or mail now!

BIG HOUSE

Continued from page 31

tandem with their growth in years, but at the same time their capacity to satisfy those needs from within their own resources has diminished. Many have lost or outlived family and friends. Even if they are able to work, few have marketable skills and job openings for ex-cons are rare. "Without careful supervision and support," Julia Hall said, "they may become street people or may intentionally violate parole provisions in order to return to prison for 'three hots and a cot.'"

To ease the return to society, Pennsylvania has adopted an innovative program, conceived and developed by Hall, to train parole officers and social workers how to assist the elderly parolee most effectively. The whole universe of available services and benefits—from Medicaid to VA programs to Social Security to public housing to the manifold training and other undertakings funded under the Older Americans Act—is a daunting labyrinth with which parolees are unfamiliar or unaware.

Pennsylvania's initiative guides the ex-inmate through the maze of entitlements that are his due and that can enable him to make it in society. The initiative has captured the interest of authorities in other states and may well have a ripple effect.

It is beyond question that not all elder-cons are appropriate candidates for parole. Some, bedridden or otherwise severely handicapped, are obviously unable to care for themselves. Some, because their offense was so heinous or because they are deemed to be poor risks on the outside, do not merit parole.

As for the bedridden and the incapacitated, Turley proposed a solution that seems practical.

"In their condition they are certainly no threat to the public. It would make unassailable good sense to transfer them to a nursing home at public expense. Instead of paying \$69,000 a year to keep the inmate in prison the cost dramatically drops to \$12,000 a year to keep him in a nursing home; in addition a cell is thus freed for a felon who really is a peril to the public. As for the geriatric inmate, he gets the care that a nursing home is better able to provide than a prison. It seems to me to be a perfect win-win situation."

For the elderly inmate for whom

parole is not warranted, both South Carolina and Maryland have plowed a fresh furrow in penology by building facilities especially designed for a graying prison population. Such facilities benefit from significantly lower fixed costs, particularly in security. But, more than that, because the physical layout and daily routine are geriatric-friendly, there is a marked reduction in the rate (and the cost) of preventable illnesses and accidents that frequently beset older inmates.

There is, finally, a seldom mentioned but morally persuasive reason to consider an elderly prisoner for parole where that is appropriate, or to place him in specialized facilities where that is deemed a wiser course of action. That reason is that some of the accidents elderly inmates sustain are not accidents at all.

Julia Hall's investigations lead her to believe that elderly prisoners "are often knocked down or pushed aside in lines for meals, medical care, commissary or phone calls by younger and more aggressive inmates." But let woebegone Quenton Brown have the last word, "They call you names. You go to the prison store, they snatch the bags from your hands as you leave. You're living in a jungle among savages."

Clearly, the graying of the prison population is an emerging crisis that must be addressed—and addressed quickly. ☐

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MOTOR AGE

Continued from page 27

by Homer D. Romberger, a Carlisle, Pa., feed and tallow dealer. The toll for a full 160 miles of the turnpike was \$1.50 for passenger cars, and the biggest trucks paid \$10. The first Sunday was a balmy Indian Summer day, and 27,000 vehicles cruised the turnpike. There was an eight-hour traffic jam near Somerset, compounded by confusion about the cloverleafs (people lost their sense of direction), the toll booths (they didn't know they had to stop for a ticket) and the tolls (they didn't bring any money). And then toll booths at several interchanges ran out of tickets.

The designers of the road claimed that 90 percent of the causes of accidents had been eliminated, and as part of a publicity deluge, press releases were issued stating that turnpike curves could be safely negotiated at 100 miles per hour and that on straightaways, 120 miles per hour could be achieved in safety.

There was no speed limit on the turnpike when it opened, but on Oct. 19, 1940, a 66-year-old Bethlehem, Pa., man became the toll road's first fatality when his car skidded and overturned. A 60-mph speed limit was imposed on the turnpike in 1941.

The most celebrated speeding arrest occurred on July 5, 1953. State Trooper Manley Stamper was on routine patrol when he noticed a black Chrysler with Missouri plates twice cut in front of vehicles trying to pass it. He pulled the driver over, strode up to the car and found himself looking at Harry and Bess Truman. Stamper issued a warning to the man who just six months earlier had been President of the United States. "He was very nice about it and promised to be more careful," Stamper recalled.

Early traffic use surpassed all estimates, but in the 14th month of the turnpike's operation America went to war, and between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day, it was essentially a military highway. The Army began using the turnpike for convoys even before the official opening, and from January 1942, until the end of the war, all vehicles were stopped and checked by State Police at each of the seven original tunnel entrances (today there are four on the main strip) because of fears that saboteurs would blow them up.

The turnpike was an important link in the transport of steel from mills in the Pittsburgh area to the East Coast, and it was used in the vast movement of men and material to Europe, Africa and the Pacific. In 1944, a 600-mile long Army convoy snaked along the highway for three days without a single accident. Army Engineer Gen. Lucius Clay said after V-J Day that the Pennsylvania Turnpike hastened the end of the war.

Very quickly the turnpike became a favorite of pilots. From the beginning of the air age, the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania were dreaded by aviators because of their height, treacherous drafts, fogs and winter storms. For pilots, the white ribbon of concrete was an infallible navigational guide and a good place to land in a pinch. In 1955, an Air Force F-86D Sabrejet made an emergency landing on the turnpike, and there have been more than 100 other emergency landings on the road.

The turnpike was ready for America's postwar automobile boom, and the millions of dollars paid at its toll booths enabled the commission to extend the toll road from the Ohio to the New Jersey borders. Finally, on May 26, 1956, the governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey met in the middle of the new 6,571-foot Delaware Memorial Bridge and snipped a ribbon joining the turnpikes of their states. But more importantly, it was now possible to drive from Maine to Indiana without encountering a stoplight.

In 1957, Congress authorized the construction of the 44,000-mile Interstate Highway System that would cost \$76 billion and be toll-free. It was the biggest public works project in American history.

Today, half a century after the birth of the idea, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the 61 other American toll roads are experiencing a surge in popularity. The free interstate system is in bad shape, and the price tag to repair it is estimated at \$60 billion. The growing disparity between tax revenues and the need to maintain existing U.S. highways has renewed interest in toll roads.

California is planning to spend \$2 billion on four toll road projects, and Pennsylvania is considering converting its share of Interstate 80 to a toll road to meet the \$60 million a year in maintenance costs. Colorado is looking at a toll road to connect Pueblo and Fort Collins. Missouri and Illinois may join in a toll road between Kansas City and Chicago.

The turnpike may be an idea whose time has come and gone and returned. ☐

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DOUBLE TALK

Continued from page 35

Bilingual education also reduces the number of school dropouts, according to De LaRosa. "If we devote full time to English teaching, neglecting other courses, the child will fall further and further behind." If math, history and other subjects are put on the backburner until Johnny gains English fluency, he may be embarrassingly old before he can effectively approach regular subjects. "It's no fun for a 10-year-old to be doing first-grade math," De LaRosa said. "Being held back causes students to drop-out. With bilingual education, the child can keep up with his coursework while acquiring English. What could be wrong with that?"

Plenty could be wrong with it, said LEAD's Peterson. "If we want these kids to break out of the poverty cycle, we better teach them English right away. Transitional bilingual education teaches the kids a little Spanish, less English, and a lot of nothing. It's a total disservice to them."

"How could it be otherwise," asked Washington, D.C.-based consultant Gary Imhof, editor of *Learning In Two Languages*. "When the bulk of the day is spent learning in another language, typically Spanish, that child is not going to learn English."

Rosalie Porter said, "In 1968 we began TBE as an experiment because we wanted to see if it would do the kids some good. After 20 years, we know it's neither the best nor the only way to assist these children. There are caring alternatives—programs that get the students speaking English in a hurry."

Nor are non-English speaking Americans united in support of TBE. Philip Vargas, president of the consulting company Human Research & Development, is a product of a Spanish-speaking home: "English is the language of America and the basic tool for survival and success in our society," Vargas said. "[TBE is] a means whereby we Hispanics maintain our own subordination and retard our ability to take advantage of the many opportunities available."

One undisputed fact is that TBE has not been proved to be beneficial. Hispanic dropout rates remain high; in Boston, after 20 years of TBE, the dropout rate is essentially unchanged. TBE supporters concede that "an awkward tension blankets the lack of empirical demonstration of the success of

bilingual education programs," noted Kenji Hakuta, an education psychologist at the University of California. Hopes for proof were recently dashed when a four-year study—conducted by Aguirre International in San Mateo, Calif., for the Department of Education—found no meaningful difference in academic performance by students enrolled in TBE or other styles of bilingual education classes.

Then why are so many still deeply committed to TBE? "I call it 'bilingual-gate,'" Peterson said. "It's little more than a hiring program for Spanish-speaking teachers. The program actually punishes success because those teaching jobs would be threatened if the children learned English."

The advocates disagree. "Many people are frustrated because they wanted a quick fix. There isn't one," said De LaRosa. "Properly supported, TBE will work and it will give us students fluent in two languages."

Will the debate ever be resolved? Lately, there is encouraging news. In its 1988 revision of the Bilingual Education Act, Congress increased funding for new approaches to educating English-deficient students. Before, just 4 percent of allotted monies could be used in those ways, but now up to 25 percent of the federal funding is available for non-TBE methods.

"That is good news," said Porter. "What's saddest is that the children have become pawns. A long time ago we all should have stopped calling each other names and should have become committed to a search for the best, most effective programs—the programs that will help these children succeed in our society. Let's acknowledge that's what we all want. Fortunately, with Congress increasing flexibility, it's now up to us in education to be doing the testing, seeing what works in practice, in the classroom. That is the way out of the debate—the only way." □

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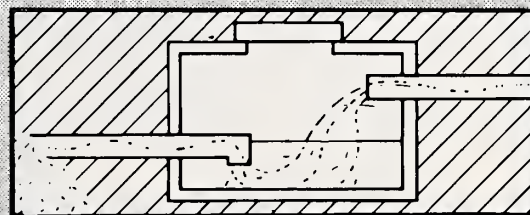
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THE ECONOMY

Continued from page 25

with the 1989 S&L legislation.

Q. But wasn't the S&L bailout bill necessary to save people's savings?

A. Well, the S&L legislation actually collapsed what was left of the industry. What it really did was to destroy the value of an S&L charter because it took away all the reasons anybody would want to acquire an S&L. The bill made it literally impossible for S&Ls to raise capital, while imposing capital reserve requirements on them that they couldn't meet. In fact, the S&L legislation helped to collapse the high-yield bond market—the so-called junk bond market—by requiring the S&Ls to dump their portfolios on the market. If a person sat down and tried to design a bill that would destroy the S&Ls, the 1989 legislation would be the result.

Q. What's to be done then?

A. Not repeat the same error with the commercial banks, which we're on the way to doing. The bank reform bill has new capital-based provisions which would mean that any bank now troubled would fail. Therefore, the same thing would happen to the FDIC that happened to the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp., except it would be larger, because the commercial banks are larger than the S&Ls. Policymakers in Washington are failing to connect cause and effect—to think realistically about what they're doing.

Q. Doesn't the federal budget deficit hang like a sword over the economy's head?

A. I agree with Milton Friedman that government will always spend all the tax revenues it can extract, plus run up the maximum tolerable deficit over and above that. The deficits of the 1980s were of no economic consequence because they were a product of unanticipated disinflation. The inflation rate collapsed relative to forecasts, demonstrating that the deficits of that time didn't cause inflation. You got the deficits because forecasters had expected higher inflation and had predicted a higher nominal gross national product, which would have meant a higher tax base and higher tax revenues.

Please turn to page 62



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THE ECONOMY

Continued from page 60

Q. How about the current deficits?
A. That's different. The collapse of the economy has replaced state and local budget surpluses with large deficits. California, for instance, faces a \$13 billion deficit this year. Simultaneously the federal budget has moved into a larger deficit than ever. It's now more than 50 percent larger than Reagan's record. In addition, you don't have any prospect of a boom like we had in the 1980s; we might get renewed growth, but there's no basis to expect it to be strong. So unless something changes in the 1990s, the deficit will for the first time become a problem.

Q. And you feel the 1989 tax increases made the deficit worse?

A. Yes. Those increases, together with what was supposed to be savings in government outlays, were supposed to reduce the deficit by \$500 billion during a five-year period. Instead, the deficit projection went up \$800 billion for this period. So the Congress-Bush tax increase has cost us more red ink than the Reagan tax cut. It does not provide any stimulus to growth; it kills the economy.

Q. What about cuts in defense spending? Are these going to affect jobs and chances of recovering?

A. First of all, I would imagine there'll be some cutbacks. Unless, of course, the chaos in the Soviet Union leads into new forms of aggression, which is possible. Hostility to defense spending is powerful among the intellectuals and the news media and in Congress. And people have used \$600 toilet seats as examples of wasteful defense spending to create support for cuts.

Yet I don't believe that prosperity is something that's increased by government spending. I think government spending detracts from successful economies. The less government spending, the better! This doesn't mean we should be unprotected; because if you're unprotected, you could suffer a worse fate than an overtaxed economy. So I'm not against appropriate, reasonable national defense. But I don't agree that the economy is dependent on Washington spending.

In my view, the economy's dependent on incentives. If people have poor

incentives to earn taxable income, because they fear it will be taken away by government at some level or the other, and if their property rights are insecure because of regulation or taxation, then the economy's not going to do well, no matter how much the government spends.

Q. You've warned that new taxes may be coming. Is that a possibility?

A. Yes, at state and local levels. Officials there are looking at these pits of red ink, and they think the solution is to raise taxes. So if you start summing up all the state and local tax increases which could occur, it's equivalent to a federal tax increase. And if we have a tax increase while we're in a recession, it's unlikely to lead to a recovery. Such tax increases, many of which are aimed at people's property, could interact with the S&L crisis and bank troubles to produce a serious problem.

Q. Looking at economic troubles outside the United States, is it possible the world is heading into a global bust?

A. The picture isn't bright. Germany has just had a massive income tax increase because of its absorption of East Germany, which was found to be nothing but a wasteland. All of the Anglo-Saxon world is in recession—Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia. The Soviet Union is in a state of economic and political collapse. All of Latin America, with the exception of Mexico and Chile, is suffering an erosion of private property rights. The Japanese have been riding for a fall and may get it because they're very dependent on external markets; and if the world slows down, it would affect their trade. So yes, there is the potential for a bust. That doesn't mean it will happen. But it's certainly much greater now than it was in the 1980s.

Q. You're saying that overregulation, overtaxation and overspending by governments are unsound policies. But can you ever expect politicians to create sound economic policies at the expense of what they perceive to be sound political policies?

A. Well, it happens from time to time. Reagan lowered the rates of taxation and threw a monkey wrench into the great expansion of spending and regulation, or at least slowed it down dramatically. The British privatized a great chunk of their socialized economy and got their unconscionable high tax rates down to 40 percent. The French for two years

had a big privatization program and also cut tax rates. So from time to time, governments do sensible things. It's continuing the momentum that is difficult—in preventing a reversal. Even a communist like Mikhail Gorbachev was able to recognize that the way the Soviet economic system worked was totally unpromising; it was just much more difficult to do anything about it than he had imagined.

I don't want to say there's no prospect with politicians. The problem is that the voters don't pay close attention. People are also fragmented; we're becoming Balkanized into a collection of narrow interest groups. So it's not just the politicians who are at fault—it's the people who vote them into office.

Q. What can get our economic house in order again?

A. I think Bush would have to give a speech pointing out the great successes of the Reagan policies and how just a short departure from them has produced substantial problems, and that from now on we're going to reaffirm people's rights to their property, as opposed to the regulators' and tax collectors' rights. As long as people think their property rights are insecure,

because of punitive environmental legislation or whatever else, and that their rights to their own income are insecure because the government continues to spend at a much more rapid rate than it collects revenues, then they're going to find ways to avoid participating in taxable activity. And they're not going to want to hold real estate, because it's a target, particularly in declining markets—a target for politicians to tax.

Q. What would the President have to do to implement such changes?

A. He'd have to fight for a capital gains tax cut and veto all spending bills that go beyond a budget freeze. If we had a freeze on spending for two years, there wouldn't be any deficit. For all practical purposes we had such a freeze in 1987. Spending grew some tiny bit, but the virtual freeze knocked about \$75 billion off the deficit. If that had been done one more time, we would have gotten rid of the deficit. Instead, the politicians tried to rely on tax increases to raise revenues and that killed the economy. So now the annual deficit is 50 percent larger than ever before. And maybe headed for 100 percent larger than ever before. □

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SWORDS & SHIELDS

Continued from page 23

And today, missiles give dictators in Cuba, China, Africa, North Korea, South America and the Middle East immense power—more than from their armies or fleets. More than two dozen developing nations are working to make ballistic missiles.

Lt. Gen. Daniel O. Graham, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and currently Director of High Frontier, which pioneered the SDI concept, described how GPALS would work: "It would provide a layered defense.

"The first line of protection, will be in space and consist of 1,000 of the tiny ballistic missile interceptors, called 'Brilliant Pebbles.' These 100-pound devices will monitor the Earth 24 hours a day to detect ballistic missile launches. If a launch is spotted, the proper pebble will request permission from U.S. ground commanders to attack. If permission is granted, the pebble will then use its rocket thrusters to race toward

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"The second layer, attacking any missile that got past the Pebbles, would be ground-based interceptors fired from any threatened area. ERIS (Exo-atmospheric Re-entry Intercept System), a prototype of a ground-based interceptor, was tested Jan. 28, 1991. The interceptor climbed 100 miles into space where, not deceived by decoys, it destroyed a mock nuclear warhead. This was a major step forward for America's SDI program," Graham said.

"Ground-based area defense systems such as the Extended Range Interceptor (ERINT), the Theater High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD), the Patriot Upgrade Missile and the U.S.-Israeli Arrow interceptor are being developed to defend areas 100 times

larger than those defended by the gulf-based Patriots. These systems could give our troops protection anytime and anywhere they need it provided they can be deployed in time to do so," he concluded.

This is America's Strategic Defense Initiative. The President's plan is technologically feasible and affordable. The theater missile defense systems could be deployed by 1996 for \$10 billion; the Brilliant Pebbles and more advanced ground-based interceptors by 1999, for a total cost of \$46 billion. So by spending less than 2 percent of our annual defense budget per year for the next eight years, America, its fighting men and women and the entire Free World can be protected from ballistic missiles launched by mistake or intent. How much would it cost to rebuild even one U.S. or European city after being destroyed by a missile strike?

But the U.S. Congress, bewitched by the violated and archaic ABM Treaty, has cut proposed SDI budgets year after year, making our nation more vulnerable to missile attack now than were our forces at Pearl Harbor to air attack. We cannot afford to risk waiting until the year 2000 to put a complete missile shield in place. We can begin imme-

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Now that just doesn't seem fair to working people with a lifetime of hard-earned savings. The system they have supported with tax dollars, seems to have forgotten them. Savings intended to provide security in retirement, or help for children, can quickly go up in smoke.

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They can also take a vacation home or a second car. In addition, your entire Social Security or

pension check can be taken to cover nursing home expenses. What's more, if you are single or widowed, you can even lose your house.

According to the federal law called the Spousal Impoverishment Act of 1988, if one spouse requires extended nursing home care, the healthy spouse can be forced to surrender HALF of their combined countable assets. And if you have a sizable estate, they can legally take MORE THAN HALF.

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes. You are protected by law and can use several legal techniques to place your countable (or vulnerable) assets into the uncountable (or protected) category. The problem is, most people are not aware of their legal rights. Unfortunately, most people think Medicare will take care of them, so they unknowingly leave their assets vulnerable and in jeopardy.

Your legal rights and the many methods of protecting your money are now revealed in "How to Protect Your Financial Security." This financial self-defense manual tells you simple legal procedures for preserving your money and warns of pitfalls to avoid. Here is some of the valuable material you learn:

- Four legal ways to turn countable (or vulnerable) assets into uncountable (or protected) assets
- How to protect your house from being sold to pay nursing home bills
- How to protect a second car or vacation home
- If you give your money to your children without following these precise guidelines, a nursing home could get your money anyhow
- This type of bank account can prevent a nursing

home from touching it

- This common legal mistake can prevent you or your spouse from receiving emergency medical care
- What you need to know about Living Trusts
- How to prevent your bank account from being frozen if you enter a nursing home
- What lawyers never tell you about protecting your will

As a hard-working taxpayer, you have a legal right to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. You don't have to be rich to have peace of mind. You just have to follow the easy steps outlined in "How to Protect Your Financial Security."

Although "How to Protect Your Financial Security" can easily save you thousands of dollars, the price is very reasonable. Right now, you can receive a special press run for only \$8.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. It is not available in any bookstore. It is only available through this special offer on a 90 day Money Back Guarantee. If you are dissatisfied in any way, just return it in 90 days for a full refund, no questions asked.

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diately to initiate fast-track action.

We've done it before. Here's what happened, as told by one of the key architects of the famed Manhattan Project, Maj. Gen. K. D. Nichols (USA-Ret.). In his book, *The Road to Trinity*, he writes:

"Late in 1938, scientists at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry in Berlin made the basic discovery of fission of uranium. Fortunately for the United States, they sent the information to their co-worker Lisa Meitner, in Denmark, where she had fled from Hitler's Germany. She immediately recognized the significance of the discovery.

"In October 1939, one Alexander Sachs, an economist, visited President Roosevelt to discuss the importance of uranium fission and the possibility of using it to create an atomic bomb of extraordinary power. Sachs gave the President a letter from Albert Einstein in which he explained the urgency of doing research in the field."

World War II was then several weeks old. President Roosevelt, recognizing the peril to the West and the need to beat the Nazis to making this new weapon, ordered the needed resources of the nation to be mobilized. The Manhattan Project came alive; tens of thousands of Americans worked day and night to beat Hitler and his minions to the weapon. And they did it. Winston Churchill called it a "miracle of deliverance."

In August 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki after Tokyo rejected a U.S. warning. President Truman ended World War II without making a costly assault on Japan's home islands, thus saving millions of American and Japanese lives.

The Gulf War was proof positive that from now on every nation must have a defense against missiles, a national insurance program. Someday Congress will, when it stops playing politics, approve the fast-track deployment of a complete missile shield. Congress must; it's a moral obligation. The vital question is when?

In the meantime, 252 million Americans, and our nation itself, will continue to be in dire peril. As Gen. Powell says, we could be wiped out in 30 minutes. Hoping and praying it won't happen isn't good enough.

A new Manhattan Project is necessary to develop and deploy a space- and ground-based missile shield. Americans have the know-how, the technology and the resources. What we don't have is the determination, the will to move ahead with a crash program.

The clock ticks. Time waits for no one, including the Congress of the United States. ☐

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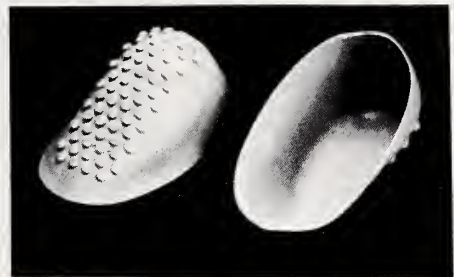
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COMMANDER

Continued from page 43

the next several years?

A. Our membership will continue to grow, and I'm pushing for an all-time membership high. In major cities the Legion should concentrate on growth and the creation of new Posts, and nationwide we must continue our strong retention efforts. I also look forward to new Posts on or near military bases, because so many people currently on active duty are now eligible for Legion membership.

As we continue to grow, though, we must always remember why we grow. Our membership increases because of programs such as Legion Baseball and the Oratorical Contest. And because we stand for traditional American values such as family and God and country, we will always attract new members.

Also, in addition to Desert Storm veterans, we have recently opened membership to veterans of the Lebanon, Panama and Grenada eras. I'm glad to welcome the first wave of those

new members to our ranks. However, with each new generation of veterans comes new responsibilities. We have to ensure these veterans receive proper benefits and health care. As it has since 1919, the Legion gladly accepts this responsibility on behalf of those brave men and women.

Q. What are the biggest challenges facing the United States in the coming years in foreign relations and defense?

A. Defining relations with a changing Soviet Union is very important. Does the United States really want to prop up the Soviet regime without ensuring that Moscow reduces military expenditures, eliminates aid to Cuba, and institutes effective reforms for democracy and a market economy? I don't think we should.

The Middle East is another place we must be vigilant. After committing troops to that region, with some paying the ultimate sacrifice, we should ensure that our gains are not relinquished at the bargaining table. We must also ensure Kuwait is kept free to develop as a democratic nation and that Iraq or any other nation in that region will be unable to spread a reign of terror again.

As for national defense, I believe the Persian Gulf War showed what a strong

defense can accomplish. Since its inception, the Legion has maintained that a strong national defense keeps our country, and the world, safe. This "100-hour war" proved that to be true. Some continue to argue against proper funding of the Defense Department. When I see defense dollars decrease, I know, eventually, more U.S. blood will be shed. With our high-tech arsenals and extensive training of troops, we are given a choice. We can fight a war with the blood of our soldiers, or we can fight it with our dollars. I'll take the dollars every time.

Q. You were in Honduras and Costa Rica this past year. Is Central America still a major concern to the Legion now that Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega and former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega are no longer in power? What must the United States do to ensure that democracy can survive in that region?

A. We still seek efficient operation of the Panama Canal and a re-examination of the Panama Canal Treaties. In a little more than eight years, Panama is slated to take over full operation of the Panama Canal and all U.S. military forces are to be pulled out of Panama. During my visit to Central America, I saw a great deal of poverty, but I also saw many people striving to build truly democratic societies. During the past decade, the United States has given billions of dollars in aid to help foster democracy and security in Central America. Although budget realities will restrict future U.S. aid, we must not abandon our friends in the region just as their efforts are starting to bear fruit. The time for Central American government-by-the-bullet has passed. With our continuing help and moral support, Central America can be governed by, and for, its people. ☐

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Notices are published only at the requests of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available from Department Legion Service Officers.

505th MHSP Clifford S. Guthrie needs witnesses to verify that while assigned to the 109th Station Hospital in New Caledonia (Fiji) during 1943-44, he suffered jungle rot of both hands and feet. Contact CID 1318.

16th Armored Div., 395th Armored FA Bn., A Btry. Roland D. Sabourin needs witnesses to verify that while stationed in Nuremburg, Germany, during June/July 1944, he suffered a nervous condition and/or battle fatigue. Contact CID 1319.

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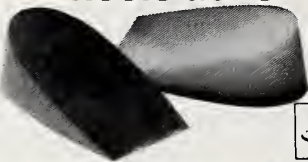
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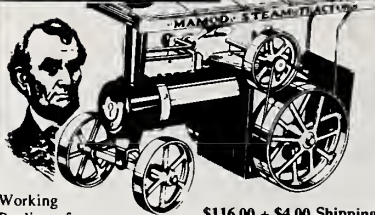
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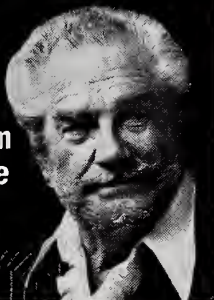
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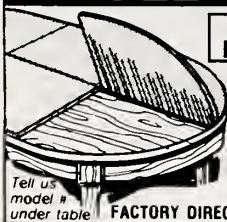
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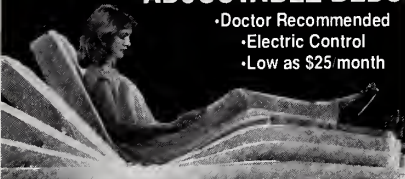
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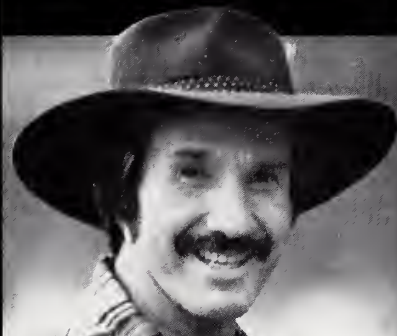


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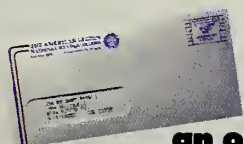
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